

Hafa Adai!

Ex-Army Ranger's \$5M lawsuit
over guns dismissed.

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Dotts: CNMI govt still owes Pel-
legrino estate over \$4M.

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75¢

'Inert bombs' to be dropped on Pagan

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Marine Forces Pacific's draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed military activities in the CNMI, particularly on Tinian and Pagan, calls for military aircraft to drop bombs in select targets on Pagan.

In a meeting with lawmakers Monday, Tim Robert, the CNMI Joint Military Training-EIS project team leader, said these bombs are "inert," which means they are small and not highly explosive. A military battleship will also fire from the sea at designated targets on the island.

Robert, who was accompanied to the meeting by CJMT-EIS project manager Sherri Eng, said that unlike other training areas, there will only be one battleship, and not a fleet when the military trains on Pagan.

Aside from the military aircraft bombing of the island, Pagan will also host beach landing operations and amphibious landings, where vehicles, carrying military personnel from naval

See **BOMBS** on **Page 2**



JAYSON CAMACHO

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), E-Land Group executives, and Kensington Saipan general manager Matthew Park, far right, break ground for the renovation of the former Palms Resort Saipan, which will be renamed the Kensington Saipan Hotel, yesterday in San Roque.

Renovation of former Palms Resort begins

» **Opening for Kensington Saipan Hotel eyed for October or November**

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

South Korean investment giant E-Land Group finally broke ground

yesterday on its multi-million renovation of the former Palms Resort Saipan, which is being rebranded as Kensington Saipan Hotel.

In addition to kick-starting the reno-

vation and switching to one of E-Land's more popular hotel brands in South Korea, the conglomerate also introduced Matthew Park as the general manager of Kensington Saipan.

Park said he hopes to hold a
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'Dr. Claasens still in serious condition'

» **DPS Saipan sends 3 detectives to Rota to complete investigation**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rota Commonwealth Health Center's Dr. Francois Claasens remains in serious condition at a hospital in Guam, according to the Department of Public Safety last night.

As this developed, Department of Public Safety Saipan sent yesterday morning to Rota police detectives

Saimon Manacop and Nicholas Rabauliman, along with crime scene detective Jeffrey Bahillo.



Claasens

DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said the three will assist Rota DPS detectives in completing the investigation into the attempted murder of the 60-year-old Claasens.

Tarkong also disclosed that he
See **CLAASENS** on **Page 4**

WITH DR. CLAASENS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE

CHCC to rotate doctors to Rota

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Following the stabbing of the only physician on Rota, Dr. Francois Claasens, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be temporarily assigning a doctor to the island on a rotating basis each week.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, who was on Rota yesterday, said that licensed nurse practitioner Norman Berthume has taken over most of Claasens' day-to-day duties at the Rota Health Center since Saturday.

For the moment, Muña said that CHCC will be providing mid-level
See **CHCC** on **Page 4**

INSIDE

BUSINESS

For Asia's aviation industry, the growing pains have just begun.

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ASIA

A new crop of labor leaders, many of them migrant workers, is emerging in China.

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LIFE & STYLE

YouTube star Michelle Phan has made a career out of sharing her beauty tips.

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Local

DOD leads push for restricted airspace on Tinian

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Restricted areas signaling “unusual, often invisible, hazards to aircraft”—like artillery or aerial fire—will inch closer to the Tinian airport if the Federal Aviation Administration deems the U.S. military’s proposals for these areas safe.

FAA Joint Order 7400.2k says a restricted area must exclude airspace 1,500 feet above ground level and below within a 3-nautical-mile radius of public airports.

The Department of Defense leads the push for the change to this order.

The CNMI Joint Military Training draft environmental impacts statement states that “it is assumed” that the FAA change to this order “will be approved as requested by [the military] in part, to support this proposed action” of restricted

areas around Tinian.

The draft EIS details special use airspace, or SUA, inclusive of restricted areas and “military operations areas” as high as 30,000 feet. SUA is a must-have for live-fire training on Tinian to happen.

“The order states that a reduction to the 3-nautical mile exclusionary airspace surrounding Tinian International Airport may be approved by the [FAA] on a case-by-case basis after a risk-based analysis in accordance with the safety risk management process, and development of a risk resolution implementation plan,” the draft EIS says.

A meeting with the Marines Corps Forces Pacific and the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday did not provide a clear update on this rule making, it was learned.

What was mainly discussed was a Tinian airport layout plan, or ALP, inclusive of military in-

frastructure and activity on the north side of CPA’s property.

This needs to be accepted by CPA, and then submitted to the FAA for approval.

AECOM engineers, who designed the proposed ALP, were at the meeting.

CPA board members, U.S. Air Force and MARFORPAC officials, Environmental Protection Agency’s Carl Goldstein, and Marianas Visitors Authority’s Perry Tenorio were at the meeting.

FAA representative Tom Sylva declined to comment on where the FAA was on the rule making at the meeting’s end.

Sylva instead referred to MARFORPAC operations officer Tim Robert, who said their proposal for special use airspace is “in its final draft stage in preparation for submission to the FAA.”

But he clarified that this was

separate from the FAA rule making. “This is a standard special airspace proposal, with a standard process,” he said.

“FAA is and has previously been in the process of reviewing and amending one of their internal regulations—but that’s not part of our special use airspace or special use airspace proposal process. That’s a total[ly] separate internal FAA matter.”

The rule is regarding how close an SUA can be established within proximity of a commercial civilian airport, he said. “That has nothing to do with military use of the airport, or military training. It’s about an internal FAA regulation that previously stated three miles was the limit. . . FAA is internally reviewing that to make sure if that still makes sense or doesn’t.”

“Bottom line, it’s either safe or it’s not, and that’s an FAA determination,” he added.

According to the FAA, special use airspace is normally designated to support DOD requirements. The FAA explains that a past memorandum of understanding with DOD details the impact analysis of special use airspace. This understanding designates when DOD is the lead agency and when FAA is the cooperating agency for federal compliance with rules.

The ALP

Sources within the meeting said a concern was brought up on the impact to commercial “flight paths when live-fire ranges are turned on.” The military has reassured that those concerns have been noted. They meet with local carrier Star Marianas today.

It was also gathered that the co-use of the military’s aviation fuel at the airport was also discussed as a possible benefit to CPA. The military had sug-

gested previously that this could be shared.

But yesterday, they deferred to the Defense Logistics Agency—which is known for buying fuel—for a method to sell or share this fuel with CPA.

Robert described the meeting as more informational, highlighting discussion about navigational aids and air traffic control tower requirements and radar requirements to ensure safety.

They are “working to come up with a solution,” he said. A Tinian ALP is “constant” in all proposed training alternatives in the EIS, he noted.

The buildup focuses on the north side of Tinian as CPA previously directed. But that does not eliminate the Air Force alternatives for the southern side, Robert clarified.

“Could be north, could be south,” he said. “CJMT is north, and that includes divert on the north, but that does not preclude Air Force from doing divert [activity] on the south,” he said.

CPA executive director Maryann Lizama said the meeting went well. “They shared their draft ALP,” she said.

“CPA would like to see some other things incorporated” like navigation aids, control towers, and instrumental landing systems that are “usually situated in an airfield,” she said.

BOMBS

From Page 1

ships, can land on water and proceed to the beach.

There will also be mortar fire and nighttime training operations on Pagan, according to Robert.

In the proposed Tinian range and training areas or RTAs, the amount and variety of training would progressively increase over the 8- to 10-year construction period, culminating in the final 20 weeks proposed.

There will be four range complexes where live-fire high explosives from ground-based

and aviation training activities would be employed.

Ground-based activities would include hand grenades thrown and launched from the Live Hand Grenade and Grenade Launcher ranges.

Aviation activities would use live munitions from machine guns and rockets and delivery

of inert aviation ordnance at targets.

Another range would accommodate live-fire vehicle-mounted (e.g., tanks, fighting vehicles) training.

There will be an infantry battle course and urban assault. Aviation training would include takeoff and landing practice for

fixed wing, helicopters, tilt-rotor aircraft, and unmanned aircraft (i.e., drones), drop (parachute) of personnel/cargo/equipment, aircraft refueling, and aviation command and control.

Airfield training would include airfield operations for training at Tinian International

See BOMBS on Page 4

the safe JAMBOREE

SAFE. AWARE. FREE. EMPOWER

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force invite you for a day of family fun at the 5th Annual SAFE (Safe. Aware. Free. Empower) Jamboree!


The SAFE Jamboree will feature live entertainment, food vendors, exhibit booths, and activity centers for children all day long!

Saturday, April 11, 2015
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Ex-Army Ranger's \$5M suit over guns dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has dismissed the \$5-million lawsuit filed by former U.S. Army Ranger Paul Michael Murphy over the alleged confiscation of his firearms and ammunition in 2007.

Manglona, however, allowed Murphy to amend his complaint by April 20, 2015. She said a short and plain statement of the claims will suffice but other parts of the complaint must conform to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

For instance, Manglona said, Murphy or his attorney must sign the complaint and certify that there is a legal and factual basis for the claims.

Additionally, the judge said, the complaint must contain a caption naming all the parties, and its paragraphs must be numbered.

In this case, Manglona said, Murphy failed to sign his first amended complaint, although he signed the original complaint.

Manglona said Murphy also erred in naming the Commonwealth as the defendant in the caption, rather than Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, as he did in the pleadings.

"These minor inconsistencies are easily remedied," the judge pointed out.

More importantly, Manglona said, Murphy must notify the defendants that they are being sued soon after he refiles the complaint.

The judge said Murphy must obtain a summons from the clerk and have copies of the summons and complaint served on the defendants.

In this case, Manglona said, neither the Commonwealth nor Deleon Guerrero was properly served, which is a violation of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Manglona said Murphy filed a proof of service stating that he personally served the summons and original complaint on the Office of the Attorney General and Deleon Guerrero's agent.

However, Manglona said, because Murphy is the plaintiff, he is not allowed to serve his own process, and the service of the summons and complaint on Deleon Guerrero was ineffective.

The judge added that Deleon Guerrero has not made an appearance, and therefore would need to be served with a summons and the first amended complaint pursuant to Rule 4 even if he had been properly served with the original complaint.

On an aside, Manglona noted

that, "perhaps an overabundance of zeal," the Commonwealth's lawyer at times made jabs at Murphy's abilities, rather than stopping at his substantive arguments.

For instance, she said, after explaining the discrepancy between the defendant named in the caption (the Commonwealth)

and the defendant named in the pleadings (Deleon Guerrero), defense counsel asserted that the "plaintiff must, once and for all, decide who he is trying to sue before further burdening the court and the defendant with additional filings in this matter."

Manglona said that's not a

fair statement.

The judge pointed out that Murphy is a *pro se*, a non-lawyer litigant, and that it makes sense to give him the benefit of the doubt when he is tripped up

by the legal profession's arcane rules.

Manglona said the court itself does not feel it is "burdened" by Murphy's filings; he made mistakes that any non-lawyer might make.

"Defense counsel does not lack for spirit, but he would be well-served by dialing down the sarcasm. Future statements on tone should not be necessary," the judge said.

In his motion to dismiss, De-

leon Guerrero, through assistant attorney general James M. Zarones, asserted that the court has no subject matter jurisdiction in this case and that Murphy has failed to serve a summons upon him.

Zarones said that Murphy's second try to sue the CNMI, Deleon Guerrero, "or whoever he is trying to sue," must fail for lack of compliance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

In his *pro se* complaint (filed without a lawyer), Murphy, who is now a teacher, also asked the court to repeal the CNMI Weapons Control Act and all associated legislation, licensing, taxation, recording, administration, and processing.

Murphy said DPS withheld all his firearms and ammunition until the issuance of a firearms, ammunition, and explosive identification card on Sept. 20, 2007.

He said his two firearms were sent to Guam Police Department armory for holding, while the ammunition is still being held by CNMI DPS Firearms Section.

Murphy said DPS had denied his repeated request to carry and possess his rifle and pistol.

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Yumul questions allocation of CW funds to NMI Labor Dep't

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
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REPORTER

An item in the proposed government budget for fiscal year 2016 allocating Commonwealth worker fee funds to the Department of Labor needs to be "clarified."

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said the government needs to disclose why the funds are being allocated and will be administered by the Secretary of Labor. The labor department



Yumul

might also want to clarify the budget allocation, he added.

Yumul cited a provision in the budget that states, "This proposal allocates the sum of \$1.7 million in Commonwealth Worker Fee Funds to be administered by the Secretary of Labor under the Office of the Secretary."

The budget proposal also said the "funds are restricted solely for the purpose of ongoing vocational educational curricula and program developments by Commonwealth educational entities."

In the previous year, the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos directly administered the CW funds.

In 2014, the Inos administration gave the Public School System and the Northern

Marianas College \$500,000 each in CW fees. That same year, the government also gave \$400,000 to the Northern Marianas Training Institute from the same CW funds.

"This [CW funds administration] needs further clarification," Yumul said.

Members of the House of Representatives have started reviewing the proposed \$145.8 million spending plan submitted by Inos on April 1. The budget represents an

increase of \$11.5 million, or 8.55 percent, from the budget of the previous fiscal year.

The budget was derived from the gross budgetary resources reported by the Department of Finance for fiscal year 2016 at \$183.55 million.

Of that amount, 37 percent (\$68 million) comes from business gross revenue tax, while 21 percent (\$38 million) comes from income taxes.

Excise taxes contributed 18 percent (\$32.4 million) of the gross budget, while "other taxes" pitched in 13 percent (\$24.6 million).

Licenses and fees contributed 7 percent (\$13.3 million), while charges for services and other revenue contributed 4 percent (\$7.2 million) combined.



JP & CANCER Alertness Walk

Tan Holdings will hold its annual walk in memory of former Tan Holdings executive John Pangelinan on

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Registration starts at 4:00pm at
Beach Road Pavilion, across JP Center

- \$5.00 registration fee (includes raffle ticket)
 - \$10.00 registration fee (includes raffle ticket and T-shirt*)
- *A commemorative T-shirt will be given to the first 150 participants who sign up.

Proceeds will benefit the Commonwealth Cancer Association's Marianas March Against Cancer

- Refreshments and raffle prizes will be available at the Susupe Beach Park finish line

Lots of prizes are up for grabs!

For more information, please contact Ms. Celia Pillarina or Anne Navarrete at 235-0560 ext. 155 or 171 or send an email to celia_pillarina@tanholdings.com.

John passed away in Feb. 5, 2008. At the time of his death, he was the publisher of Saipan Tribune. Before joining the Tribune, John worked for Tan Holdings for 23 years in various capacities in both Saipan and Guam. John was born on Saipan on Oct. 26, 1937.

BOMBS

From Page 2

Airport, North Field, and on proposed Landing Zones.

As an example, Robert said, there will 155-mm high explosive munitions to be fired at the “high danger” areas on both Tinian and Pagan.

In all, there will 20 weeks of live-fire training on Tinian and 16 weeks of live-fire training on Pagan.

The EIS also said the potential increase in training reflects the maximum training capacity for each island. Potential future live-fire training could be accommodated up to a total of 45 weeks of training on Tinian and a total of 40 weeks of training on Pagan.

There will also be non-live-fire training (e.g., logistics training), and RTA maintenance and management functions would occur outside of the live-fire training durations throughout the year.

Major conflicts, terrorism, international lawlessness, natural disasters, and the current U.S. national strategy to focus on the Pacific theater have the potential to change the structure of military forces in the region and the required training frequency.

A 30-day review period of the draft EIS has been opened to the public. Comments will then be heard on separate hearings on April 29 on Saipan, April 30 on Tinian, again on Saipan on May 1.

What is the EIS?

In a nutshell, the EIS determines the environmental and socioeconomic effects of a federal agency’s proposed action on a specific location.

In the case of the CNMI Joint Military exercises, these actions includes setting up military installations where military activities will be conducted on select areas on Tinian and Pagan for a specified period of time.

Eng said the EIS was started in October 2012 and ended this month with the publication of a draft EIS.

Why draft an EIS?

Eng explained that the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, requires federal

agencies to examine the potential effects of their proposed actions on the human environment, which includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment.

An EIS is a detailed public document that complies with the requirements of NEPA by assessing the potential effects a major federal action may have on the human environment.

The proposed action in this case is to establish a series of live-fire ranges, training courses, and maneuver areas within the CNMI to reduce existing joint service training deficiencies and meet the U.S. Pacific Command Service Components’ unfilled unit level and combined level training requirements in the Western Pacific.

The proposed action includes: construction, range management, expanded training and operations (to include combined arms, live-fire, and maneuver training at the unit and combined level), establishment of danger zones, designation of Special Use Airspace, and interest in land to support simultaneous and integrated training.

These actions are often called range and training areas or RTAs.

An RTA refers to live-fire ranges, training courses, maneuver areas, and associated support facilities, collectively, that are located near each other.

The EIS comes in to gauge what impacts these activities will have on the chosen locations.

An activity, say a bombing run on a site on Pagan or firing munitions on Tinian, will have an impact on the islands and the EIS essentially determines these impacts.

There will be construction of facilities to support RTA development and associated infrastructure. There will also be expanded training and operations to include combined arms, live-fire, amphibious landings, and maneuver training.

What are the affected areas?

The EIS has identified 16 “resources” that will be affected—by varying degrees—

once the military exercises get underway.

These resources include geology and soil, water resources, air quality, noise, airspace, land and submerged land use, recreation, terrestrial biology, marine biology, cultural resources, visual resources, transportation, utilities, socioeconomic and environmental justice, hazardous materials and waste, and public health and safety.

Eng said the EIS designates if the military activities will have “no impact,” “less than significant impact,” or “significant impact” on the above-mentioned resources.

According to the EIS, there will be significant impacts on noise, airspace, recreation, terrestrial biology, marine biology, cultural resources, visual resources, socioeconomic and environmental justice, hazardous materials and waste, and geology and soils.

Eng said there is mitigation. The military may opt to “avoid,” “minimize” or “mitigate” depending on the impact of the activities on a certain resource.

What are the expected economic benefits?

In contrast to the environmental impacts, there are also expected benefits. These include employment, cattle grazing, commercial air traffic, volcano monitoring, biosecurity, solid waste management, and traffic improvements.

Personnel will be needed to tend the proposed military installations, thus bringing employment opportunities. Cattle can be allowed to graze on leased lands during the periods that there are no military activities.

There is a possibility that aircraft fuel will be brought to Tinian, which may allow commercial air traffic. A section of the road on Tinian is also expected to be made into a two-lane road to improve traffic.

According to Eng, all the proposed developments under the CJMT-EIS are expected to be completed in eight years.

Base camps, munitions storage, firing ranges, among others, will be built.

What do the lawmakers want?

There are a few major items that CNMI lawmakers want to be made clear by draft EIS.

Will there be repair efforts of Tinian’s breakwater infrastructure? Will the military repair the dock on Pagan? Will there be an improvement on the power grid? How about solid waste management, considering Tinian does not have sewers? Will commercial flights by Star Marianas, the lone carrier on Tinian, be affected? What about future flights, considering that there is airspace restrictions whenever military exercises are being conducted?

One important item is the leasing of Pagan, which lawmakers also want the U.S. military to consider.

In contrast to Tinian, where two-thirds of the land is already being leased by the military for 100 years, there are no talks yet on how the military plans to acquire land on Pagan.

This has been a cause for worry, since all indications point that there will be bombings and artillery fire from naval ships that will be directed to a certain portion of Pagan.

In 1981, the government ordered the few hundred residents of Pagan to leave the island due to the danger of a volcanic eruption. The question now is if these former residents are entitled their fair share, once lease negotiations begin?

Which agencies are involved in the EIS?

The draft EIS lists down the following agencies with direct involvement through a “collaborative approach.”

For the CNMI these include the Governor’s Office, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Capital Improvements Projects Program Office, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Military Integration Management Committee, and the Department of Public Works.

The Tinian Mayor’s Office, the Tinian Cattlemen’s Association and other cattle ranchers, and the Northern Islands Mayor’s Office representatives are also involved.

For the federal government, agencies include the Federal Aviation Administra-

tion, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Natural Resource Conservation Service), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment.

Is there a need for a third-party expert?

Lawmakers also cited that the Commonwealth needs more time to review the draft envi-

ronmental impact statement on proposed joint military exercises on Tinian and Pagan.

Considering that the draft EIS contains thousands of pages and involves a wide range of specialized topics, there might be a need to tap an outside expert to come in and try to “laymanize” the report.

The window for comments may not be enough, particularly for those who will be most affected by the EIS: the general public.

CLAASENS

From Page 1

confirmed with one of the detectives working on the case that the victim’s condition remains the same as when he was taken to a Guam hospital.

As of last night, Tarkong was still waiting for additional reports on the doctor’s condition.

Claasens suffered puncture wounds on the back of his neck and the right side of his mouth. He sustained numerous deep lacerations and contusions on the head, and his right ear was bleeding. He suffered fractured legs and arms, and a skull fracture, police said.

Claasens, the only physician assigned at the Rota

Health Center, was last reported to be unconscious and on life support.

The suspect, William Abraham Kapon Mathewson, a 36-year-old farmer/fisherman, allegedly stabbed Claasens in the neck with a fishing spear and whacked his head with a chain and a big black pot.

The attack happened in the back of the doctor’s house in Teneto Village on Rota on Saturday morning.

Prior to the incident, Mathewson and Claasens were talking, according to the doctor’s minor son.

Mathewson allegedly smelled of alcohol when he was arrested at the scene. He is now in jail after failing to post a \$250,000 cash bail.

RENOVATION

From Page 1

grand opening this October or November, as the renovations will probably need at least six months to be completed. It was earlier reported that the renovation will cost between \$20 million and \$30 million.

Once online, E-Land expects the former Saipan Nikko Hotel in San Roque to add much-needed hotel rooms to the CNMI’s rebounding tourism industry and create hundreds of job opportunities for Saipan residents.

Hotel executives, businesses and government officials, and lawmakers attended yesterday’s groundbreaking.

Kevin Lee, the project manager for the renovation, presented a brief slide presentation about the renovations E-Land will be undertaking. He showed three designs for the rooms, a banquet hall, restaurant outlets, swimming pool, main lobby, a VIP checking lounge, and a luxury gallery.

Lee noted, however, that the designs are still in the planning stages and renovation plans could still change.

Park said all 313 rooms will be renovated. He also noted that the renovation work itself with create job opportunities of about 250 to 300.

“But it depends on the situation because labor in the CNMI is not a lot due to more businesses coming in already but I am looking forward to the job market here,” he said.

Park pointed out that E-

Land’s plan is “more than the CNMI people’s expectations” because they are also planning new facilities at Coral Ocean Point, which is also owned by E-Land. These include construction of shopping malls and other entertainment facilities.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio was pleased with E-Land starting work on the former Palm Resort.

“We have been waiting for this day for quite a long time and want to extend our congratulations to E-Land for reinvesting back into this beautiful opportunity,” Tenorio said.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), who is a representative of Precinct 4 where San Roque is located, said the groundbreaking for the new Kensington Saipan can bring interesting business opportunities to the northern part of the island.

Rep. Joseph “Lee Pan” Guerrero (R-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, hopes E-Land is sincere with their intention to start the renovation and is looking forward to working with management on how to improve the tourism industry.

“I am hoping that what Mr. Park said of being committed is true and I am hoping and very optimistic on this opportunity,” Guerrero said.

Park said that E-Land will be committed fully to the CNMI and is looking forward to working with both the government and private sectors as they move forward with future developments.

CHCC

From Page 1

providers or physicians to work at the Rota clinic every week until a permanent doctor is recruited to serve the island.

“In the meantime CHCC is also looking for more permanent physicians. Whoever the midlevel provider or physician at RHC is, they will have access to the ER doctors at the [Commonwealth Health Center] 24/7 and they will assist them,” she said.

Muna said even before last

week’s incident, CHCC was already looking to hire a new doctor for Rota to pair with the 60-year-old Claasens.

“Before the incident, Dr. Claasens interviewed the physician we’re hiring. So we’re trying to hire earlier so we will have two physicians on Rota because Dr. Claasens was only by himself. We are also hopeful that Dr. Claasens will be back so that both physicians can work together,” she said.

The new physician, whose name Muna didn’t want to disclose, is a general practitioner, which is similar to Claasens’

line of work. He was expected to come in May, but due to the current circumstances, Muña has asked him to come sooner.

“He might actually come earlier than expected and we had a conversation with him to let him know that [Claasens’ stabbing] was an isolated incident and it was on Rota and we’re encouraging him to be on Rota. We also informed him that it is a safe place,” Muña said.

Claasens, who was stabbed on Saturday, remains in critical condition at the Guam Naval Hospital and physicians treating

him there earlier said he only has a 20-percent survival rate after allegedly being brutally stabbed by William Abraham Kapon Mathewson.

Muna hope that Claasens will recover and a second doctor will soon be at hand to serve the Rota community.

“We will continue the recruitment and don’t know the situation yet but we are hopeful that Dr. Claasens recovers quickly. In addition, but not certain yet, if everything is clear and if the physician is willing, we may soon have a midlevel provider at RHC,” she said.

Public urged to give aid to victims of Maysak

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth businesses have stepped up to the plate in providing relief to victims of Typhoon Maysak that hit Chuuk and Yap states in the Federated States of Micronesia early Wednesday last week, according to Joeten Kiyu Public Library technical service librarian Rosalyn Ajoste.

Ajoste said that Saipan Shipping, Saipan Stevedore, Construction and Material Supply, Matson Navigation, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority have graciously donated a 40-foot container and agreed to waive all shipping fees in order

to send relief supplies to the typhoon-battered islands.

Ajoste said the container is called "Container of Love" and will be carried by the *Kyowa Orchid* vessel. The vessel's expected travel date is April 18.

"JKPL had been planning to send a container of law books, textbooks, and novels down to Chuuk prior to the typhoon but now it has expanded into a relief effort to include all types of donations to help the people rebuild their lives," she said.

"I have been working closely with Chuuk Sen. Lester Danny Mersai and his wife Kathy. ... We are in partnership with the House of Representatives of the Freely Associated States of

»40-foot container donated to bring relief goods to Chuuk

Micronesia and we're all raising much-needed educational resources and typhoon supplies for the outer islands of Chuuk," she added.

These include textbooks, children's books, and novels that will go directly to the public schools of Fefan, Siis, and Paren.

Ajoste said that relief supplies such as canned goods, bottled water, instant noodles, snack foods, sheets/bedding, tools, flashlights, batteries, clothing, soap/shampoo, and etc. are welcome.

"Our goal is to fill up the entire 40-foot container. Any excess donations will be shared with the ongoing relief efforts for our friends in Yap. All donations can be brought to JKPL," she said.

JKPL will accept donations from April 7 to 17. The library is open from Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 6pm and on Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

For more information, contact Kathy at 789-9264 or Ajoste at 235-7329 or 287-9700 or email her at thesaipanlibrarian@gmail.com, email Kathy at

kpmersai@gmail.com, or email Chuuk Sen. Danny Mersai at danny.mersai@gmail.com.

Super Typhoon Maysak packed winds of 160 kilometers per hour (100 mph) when it passed north of the Yap State atolls of Ulithi and Fais early Wednesday. There have been no reports of casualties in Yap but four deaths, a child and three adults, were reported in Chuuk.

In related news, JKPL acting executive director Erlinda C. Naputi said that the 2015 draft CNMI Joint Military Training Plan Environmental Impact Statement is now available for reading at the Saipan public library, to include the Tinian and Rota's public libraries.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 3rd birthday to our darling Princess Heaven Agnes Maratita Deleon Guerrero! May the good Lord continue

to bless and guide you today and always! We love you beyond compare. From Daddy, Mommy, Caela, and Brinae.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Wishing a sweet girl happiness, adventure, and forever fun. Happy 7th birthday

to my darling Miah-Renisha J. P. Delacruz! May God continue to shower you with His blessings and many more to come. I love you to the maximum power. Love, Mama.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Anniversary!

Hafa Adai!

From the management and staff of **Saipan Tribune**
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

YCO Hardware celebrates 40 years, looks forward to more

Like its founder, Jesus Yumul, YCO Hardware values hard work—day in and day out—and that has been a constant in the 40 years that the company has been in existence. This month marks the store's 40th anniversary and that remains the driving force of the company, according to store manager Dante Yumul.

Yumul told *Saipan Tribune* that these last 40 years were built on hard work, something his father, Jesus, taught him and his siblings.

"He's very business-minded," Yumul says of YCO Hardware's founder. "Growing up, nothing was handed to us. We had to work for everything."

Yumul said his dad still refuses to fully retire to this very day. "And I think that's his nature," he added, crediting his dad for pushing him to finish college before returning to the family business.

Yumul said his father came to the island as an engineer, helping put up water tanks in the 1960s. His father even helped build their current building in Garapan, he said. His dad just keeps "going and going and

building." This has rubbed off on him and his siblings.

"We're a hardware family," he said.

Growing up, Yumul and his brothers and sister would help around the store, stocking shelves for example. "I was born into the hardware business," he said, adding that while he is a technician at heart, the store "is in his nature."

He attributes this trait to his father and also to his mother, who Yumul says is the "cooler head" in the family.

With his brothers Ray and Ralph, they've worked through a lot of tough business decisions. Owning a hardware store is not an 8-to-5 kind of job, he said. You take it home with you. You're "on your feet" all the time.

"Time, sweat, and tears," Yumul said, when asked how it's like to run a family business.

Daily operations and maintenance teach you patience, he said, and communication is key.

They value that back-and-forth relationship they have with their customers. "Our customers have come back

and told us the pros and cons" of their business decisions, he said. As long as their business is running, he said they do their best to accommodate.

"We really want to thank the community for the 40 years of support. We want to thank them because without them, we wouldn't be here."

Since opening a new location in Garapan in November, Yumul said they are beginning to settle into their new location. They had a whole bunch of new items when they first opened, he said. But now, they are finding what their customers want. "Now we know what moves," he said, pointing at plumbing, lawn and gardens, and building materials.

It's been long journey since the mid-1970s. Yumul recalls that his dad started with nothing, opening "just a little hardware store" at first.

"It just kept evolving," he said.

He is optimistic of another 40 years and more. "We're here to stay," he said.

One of the things that are on the planning board is to add a seasonal section in the near future, with barbecue pits sold around spring, for example. **(Saipan Tribune)**

Propst wants to outlaw resale of goods from military store

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a bill seeking to "criminalize the sale and/or resale of products purchased or obtained from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

Propst's House Bill 19-47 also seeks to give authority to the Department of Commerce's Division of Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control and the Office of the Attorney General to enforce and prosecute violators.

H.B. 19-47 said items bought from the AAFES or the military store are solely for the benefit of authorized patrons, including active military personnel, retirees, reservists, National Guard personnel, Department of Defense employees (when stationed outside the continental U.S.), Department of State officials serving in foreign countries, and any of their dependents who have been issued ID cards.

The lawmaker cited that "there are no current provisions that allow for the criminal prosecution of this behavior that would serve as both deterrent and punishment for these activities that are harmful to both the business community and the general welfare of the Commonwealth."

The proposed bill suggests a fine of \$1,500 and/or imprisonment of at least 30 days. The violator's license to do business may also be revoked.

Propst said there are confirmed reports of stores that

are buying beer from the troop store in Puerto Rico at a cheaper price, then reselling the same items to the public without paying the proper taxes.

The lawmaker explained that the military store extends a privilege to enlisted personnel and their immediate relatives that allows them to buy liquor and other items at a discounted price. The items are often sold in large containers and are meant only for personal consumption.

However, some unscrupulous individuals have taken advantage of this and have been buying items—particularly beer—in bulk that are then sold to stores. The stores then resell the beer to customers who unwittingly buy the items.

A typical 30-pack beer could be bought from the troop store at \$21.50. The same pack would then be sold to retail outlets, with \$5 being added to the actual price.

Propst said the retail outlet can then make a nice profit from selling the beer and "cheating the system."

The lawmaker added that severe fines can be a deterrent to this illegal practice, but there should also be strict enforcement by the police.

Propst said he has initiated talks with businesses on Saipan and military representatives as well to address the concern. "It is unfortunate that the military is well aware of the situation," he said. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

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ROADSIDE WAVING

In support of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres joins with his kids at a roadside waving against oral cancer Monday afternoon along Beach Road in Oleai.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Dotts: CNMI govt still owes Pellegrino estate over \$4M

»»'With no provision for paying court judgments, CNMI budget is in violation of Constitution'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government still owes the estate of Anthony Pellegrino over \$4 million and, with no provision for paying court judgments, the budget is in violation of the Commonwealth Constitution, according to Pellegrino estate counsel Michael Dotts yesterday.

In an interview, Dotts said the CNMI Constitution requires a balanced budget.

"Balanced budget does not mean you just spend all the money you have. Balanced budget means you have to take into account all your debts," he said.

Dotts pointed out that all these court judgments against the government are debts of the CNMI.

"They think they passed the budget, but they have not passed a balanced budget because there is no provision for paying judgments," he said.

That means the budget is right now in violation of the Constitution.

"So there could be an action to try to, I guess, undo the budget because it's not a balanced budget," he said, adding that he believes the amount owed Pellegrino is not in this budget so they're not getting any payment.

In 2013, then-attorney general Joey Patrick San Nicolas disclosed that the government's outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements have reached more than \$27 million, excluding accruing interests. It was reported at that time that of the \$27 million, over \$5.9 million represents the amount the Department of Lands and Natural Resources owes Marine Revitalization Corp. and Pellegrino.

In 2010, the government's debt to Pellegrino and his MRC had ballooned to \$8.5 million.

The government's debt, however, was reduced to \$5 million after the CNMI Supreme Court took away about \$3 million in interest. The high court ruled that judgments against the CNMI don't accrue interest.

Pellegrino established MRC to build the \$3.5 million Outer Cove Marina in the mid-1990's. MRC and the government's dispute be-

gan in 2001 after DLNR not only failed to bar commercial vessels from renting slip space at Smiling Cove but also actively solicited commercial lessees.

In 2005, DLNR agreed to a court judgment ordering it to pay \$5.6 million to Pellegrino or MRC. DLNR did not comply with the order, resulting in three judgments in favor of MRC.

Pellegrino passed away in June 2013. A probate has opened for Pellegrino in the Superior Court.

Dotts said yesterday that one of the assets of Pellegrino's estate is the judgment against the CNMI.

"We're still hoping to collect on that judgment," he said.

Dotts said the reason why the judgment is now only over \$4 million is because the CNMI Supreme Court had decided that judgments against the government don't earn interests.

"So if you get a judgment against the government, and they don't pay you and if it is a normal breach of contract judgment it doesn't earn interest," he said.

Dotts said the government's debt that reached over \$8 million is now down to over \$4 million because the interest was wiped out.

Dotts said the case went up to the CNMI Supreme Court because Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman had issued an order in aid of judgment and Pellegrino and MRC were collecting on themselves by selling tax credits.

The Supreme Court reversed the lower court and ruled that that judgment to Pellegrino and MRC must be paid by legislative appropriation.

"You sue the government, you go through all the process, you get a judgment and the government can ignore you and doesn't have any increase in liability," Dotts said.

On collection efforts, Dotts said they are talking with the government about a tax credit program as the governor could do a tax credit program.

Otherwise, he said, payment requires a legislative appropriation.



Pellegrino



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From the management and staff of

JOETEN ENTERPRISES, INC.



Man gets 14-day sentence in knife-chasing incident

A man accused of chasing people in sight with a knife after threatening to stab his girlfriend in Gualo Rai pleaded guilty yesterday and was slapped with a 14-day prison term.

Kardus Louis, 29, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal and was sentenced to 90 days in prison, all suspended except 14 days, to be served day for day.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio gave Louis credit for the eight days he has already served in jail.

That means he has six more days to serve at the Department of Corrections.

After completing his sentence, Louis will be placed on one year of supervised probation. He was required to pay a \$200 fine, plus \$25 in court costs and \$100 in probation fees.

Louis was required to report to the Community Guidance Center for anger management counseling and complete any recommended treatment within six months of being released.

He was ordered to submit to

an evaluation by the Community Guidance Center focusing on alcohol and drug assessment, treatment, and screening.

During his probation, Louis is prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages and controlled substances.

Police arrested Louis at the scene on Nov. 20, 2015, on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. The Office of the Attorney General later amended the charge to just disturbing the peace.

Louis was represented by assistant public defender Matthew Meyer. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on Nov. 20, 2014 on Saipan, Louis chased Francisco Sinounou with a knife.

A police report stated that two police officers responded to the U-Luck Poker area in Gualo Rai on Nov. 20, 2014 at 2:35am in response to a call about a disturbance.

As one of the officers was talking to Louis, who was standing across the street, Louis' girlfriend approached and told the officer to arrest him. The girlfriend, who was crying and screaming, told police that Louis came to her house, took a knife from the kitchen, and threatened to stab her and other people.

A witness told police that Louis challenged everyone to a fight and chased him and other people in the area. Louis then threw the knife in the jungle area upon seeing the officers. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School Honor Roll list for 3rd Quarter

6TH GRADE

"A" Honor 3.50-3.99 (No C's)
Jason Sablan
James Park

"B" Honor 3.00-3.49 (No D's)

Won Woo Nam
Seungju Lee
John Hong
Puti'On Palacios-Camacho
Mateo Guerrero

7TH GRADE

Principal's List (4.00)
Kate Ishida

"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99 (No C's)

Iris Lee
Esther Park
Nan (Shane) Xie
Ye Lee Cha
Ken Toyokawa-Song

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49 (No D's)

Carol Lee
Tomjayson Cayetano
Jon Paul Sablan
Rovin Bacani
Desrei Camacho
Jeffrey Seo

8th Grade

"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99 (No C's)

Mimi Sakano
Ellen Lee
Celina Wu

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49 (No D's)

Annabelle Sablan
Alex Chen
Sun Je Lee
Kevin Zhen

3 NMI students make honor roll at Oregon State U

Three CNMI students have made it to the Scholastic Honor Roll winter term of the Oregon State University.

Saipan-born Keanah G. Deleon Guerrero, a freshman taking up University Exploratory Studies; and Amanda Maria W. Santos, a senior majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Science, earned grades of 3.5 or better to make it to the roll.

Tinian's Marquina M. Hofschneider, a sophomore taking up Political Science, also got grades of 3.5 or better.

A total of 889 students earned straight A's (4.0). Another 3,767 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work. *(PR)*

USNB to host Back to Sumay Day

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer Capt. Andy Anderson is inviting former residents of Sumay village and their descendants to the 6th annual Back to Sumay Day event on NBG on April 11.

The annual event, coordinated with the Santa Rita Mayor's Office, began in 2010 by then-base commanding officer Capt. Scott Galbreath with the goal of inviting former residents of the pre-World War II village and their descendants back to the site.

A Mass will be held 11am at Clipper Landing Park pavilions on NBG. Following the Mass, there will be food, music, cultural dancing entertainment and a display of photos dating back to pre-World War II Sumay.

During the event, historical tours will be offered in partnership with the mayor's office and Guampedia.

Former Sumay residents and descendants are also invited to stop by the Sumay Cemetery to pay respect to their family members buried at the site. The Coastal Riverine Group Detachment 1 Guam Chief Petty Officer Association will provide flowers for those visiting the cemetery from 10am to 1pm or while supplies last.

Sumay village was once known as the "Pearl of the Island" before the war. Evolving from a small fishing village to the agricultural and commercial hub for ships in the mid-1800s, it became an economically rich village by the 1930s. *(PR)*



is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: International Cooks (25)

Qualifications: 2 years experience as a cook in a high volume restaurant or hotel. Must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated and organized. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time. Must be flexible to work a varied schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Demi Chef (3)

Qualifications: 4 years work experience in a high volume restaurant or hotel as a Demi Chef. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards are essential. Proven track of food preparation, presentation and preservation knowledge is an essential. Must be a dedicated team player with the ability to work in a multicultural environment. Willing to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Sous Chef (1)

Qualifications: 5 years previous kitchen management/supervisory experience is required preferably from a large volume restaurant or hotel. Must have understanding and knowledge of safety, sanitation and food handling procedures. Able to work in a team environment; must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated and organized. Committed to quality service and food and beverage knowledge. Ability to work calmly and effectively under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Electrician (1)

Qualifications: 5 years work experience in this field is required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: General Maintenance Worker (2)

Qualifications: 2 years work experience as a Handyman is required and preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Possession of a driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Front Desk Manager (1)

Qualifications: Must have a minimum of three (3) years progressive experience in Front Desk supervisory level required preferably from a high volume hotel. Strong communication skills both oral and written and demonstrated leadership abilities are essential. Must be able to analyze data and make decision based on prior experience and knowledge of circumstances to prepare daily and weekly forecasts of expected arrivals and departures. Must have an energetic and dynamic personality and able to multitask. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Guest Relations Agent (1)

Qualifications: High School Graduate or equivalent. 1 year previous work experience as guest relations agent in a high volume or full service hotel is highly preferred. Language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is advantageous. Strong customer service and communication skills are essential. Must have good problem solving skills. Must be able to multi-task and is a team player. Knowledge of computer applications is required.

Position: Electrician (1)

Qualifications: 2 years experience as electrician in commercial, industrial and residential building electrical works is required. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Carpenter (1)

Qualifications: 2 years carpentry experience required. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry positions. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: Carpenter - Supervisor (1)

Qualifications: 3 years work experience in this field in a supervisor level is required. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry positions. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: A/C Refrigeration Mechanic (1)

Qualifications: 4 years experience in this field is required. Must be able to read electrical wiring diagrams, and control diagrams. Must be able to troubleshoot refrigeration equipment. Must be able to obtain and maintain required certification in this field. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is April 16, 2017.

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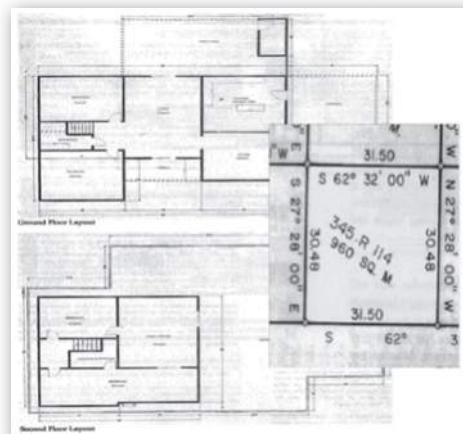


NOTICE OF SALE

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) hereby gives notice that it is seeking interested buyers, bids and proposals for the fee simple purchase or the leasing of its foreclosed property located in Sinapalo, Rota. Asking price is \$150,000. Deadline to submit offers is Thursday, April 30, 2015. Award will be based on best offer.



2 storey concrete house; 2,865 sq. ft. dwelling area in Sinapalo, Rota



Please call our office on Rota at 532-9408 or Saipan at 234-6245 ext. 306 or 310 for more information on the property and to inquire about our Fee Simple Purchase and Ground Lease Option to Purchase Programs or check our website at www.developcnmi.com.

BoG, Traders Insurance, Hyatt newest sponsors of MMAC

Bank of Guam, Traders Insurance Inc., and Hyatt Regency Saipan are once again sponsors for the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer after presenting donations to the MMAC committee members at their respective businesses yesterday.

BOG and Hyatt are title sponsors, while Traders Insurance is a major sponsor.

Hyatt donated \$1,000 in in-kind donations and \$2,000 cash, BOG donated \$3,000 cash, while Traders Insurance donated \$1,000 cash.

Chris Concepcion, MMAC public relations committee vice chair, said all three companies have been sponsoring the MMAC year after year.

"Their support of the MMAC is sincerely appreciated. We encourage other businesses to join

the fight by becoming title, major or contributing sponsors of the upcoming MMAC," Concepcion said.

Businesses, individuals, and organizations that also wish to support the 2015 MMAC may donate funds, services, or raffle items. Sponsorship levels include title sponsor (donating \$3,000 or more), major sponsor (donating \$1,000 to \$2,999), or

supporting sponsorship (donating \$1 to \$999).

So far, the 2015 MMAC's list of sponsors include Delta Air Lines, BOG, Hyatt, and Joeten Daidai Foundation as title sponsors. Xerox, Brabu Pharmacy, and Traders Insurance are major sponsors.

This year's event will be held at the Hopwood Junior High School field from May 1 to 2.

Money raised from MMAC is used by the Commonwealth Cancer Association to promote cancer awareness and prevention, provide patient support services, and serve as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI.

For donations, call committee chair Nola Hix at 989-6652 or email at nola.hix@gmail.com. *(Jayson Camacho)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Traders Insurance, Inc. employees join in a group photo with Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer committee after donating \$1,000.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan executives and staff join in a group photo with Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and 2015 March Against Cancer committee after donating \$3,000 both in-kind and cash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam staff donate \$3,000 to Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer.



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP15-DOC-064

Preparation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy For the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands
(Funded by the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce)

RFP SUBMISSION: MAY 11, 2015 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME or e-mail to procurement@pticom.com

The proposal package will be available on or after **April 01, 2015** at the Office of the Secretary of Commerce or online website page at www.commerce.gov.mp.

A **mandatory pre-proposal conference** is scheduled for **10:00 a.m., local time, April 17, 2015** at the Commonwealth Development Authority located in San Jose Village, Saipan, MP 96950.

Questions concerning this RFP are due no later than the close of business, **April 22, 2015** and shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary of Commerce at facsimile number (670) 664-3067 or email to ceds@commerce.gov.mp.

Responses to questions will be sent to all registered prospective proposers no later than the close of business, **April 30, 2015**.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government.

/s/MARK O. RABULIMAN
Secretary of Commerce

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply



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Key Functions:

The Executive Assistant will help the Executive Officer and the President maintain organizational relationships and act as the main point of contact particularly for business partners and customers in and from China, as well as colleagues and peers in the local Chinese Community. The Executive Assistant should support the management of the President's time and calendar to ensure that the President is fully informed and prepared for all meetings with such stakeholders and to assist in organizing events. The Executive Assistant should be highly organized, able to multi-task and manage multiple time-sensitive demands, have exceptional inter-personal and communication skills and support the mission of the organization. This professional must possess a combination of strategic thinking skills and the demonstrated ability to implement and manage the daily logistical demands of a project centered staffs who work cross functionally to respond to the needs of the organization and its constituents.

Job Requirements:

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and/or Information Technology. With excellent English and Chinese communication skills both oral and written. Must possess experience in MS Office suite. One-year related experience in administrative type functions an advantage. Service-oriented, with strong organizational skills, active listening and active learning is required. Must be open to a variety of responsibilities, changing assignments, and be an overall team player.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, April 17, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

General Maintenance Worker

High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

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Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

US is wrong to detain asylum seekers at border

Faced last summer with a new wave of Central American mothers and their children illegally entering the U.S. from Mexico, the Department of Homeland Security came up with a new immigration enforcement strategy designed, in part, to deter others from making the same trip. In doing so, the department broke the law.

Before the new policy took effect, migrant mothers with children who were taken into custody at the border were offered the opportunity to show that they were fleeing persecution in their home country. Those who could demonstrate a "credible fear" were usually released on bond or under other arrangements to ensure that they'd return to immigration court for a full-fledged asylum hearing.

But in June, as the number of mothers with children surged, the government suddenly began detaining even those who were granted an asylum hearing. In December, it opened a new 2,400-bed facility in rural Texas to increase its ability to house them. The stated purpose: to send a message to others in Central America that if they tried to make the trip, they would be caught, detained and eventually sent home.

Unfortunately for the government, that strategy is illegal. U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg ruled this year in issuing a preliminary injunction to end the practice. The Obama administration has asked the judge to reconsider his ruling, likely a precursor to a full appeal. But the judge's original decision was the correct one.

The administration argues, among other things, that it has no blanket policy of detaining people to deter the actions of others, and that it uses deterrence only as one of several discretionary factors in determining whether to detain or release mothers with children. But the government's numbers suggest something else. According to Boasberg's ruling, over six months last year the government released only 32 mothers and children while detaining 2,602. So if it's not a policy in fact, it is in deed. And it is wrong.

The government has both the right and the responsibility to secure the border and enforce the nation's immigration rules. To that end, the law allows the government to detain people accused of being in the country illegally if it fears they won't show up for court or that they pose a threat to public safety.

But the law also allows asylum seekers—many of whom are fleeing life-threatening conditions in their home countries—to come to the U.S. and make their case for entry. If they pose no threat and are expected to return for their hearings, it is both morally and legally wrong to lock them up as a matter of policy simply in an effort to deter others from coming. The Department of Homeland Security should drop its legal defense of a patently unjust policy.

(c)2015 Los Angeles Times



A real chance to keep bomb out of Iran's hands

Get a grip, people. President Obama is touting the framework deal with Iran as the diplomatic triumph of the century while its critics claim it threatens Israel, us, and the world.

Could everyone please take a deep breath?

The deal's historic value won't be determined before many key missing pieces are (or aren't) fleshed out in ongoing talks, or before we see if Iran agrees to these conditions. We won't know whether the deal will burnish Obama's weak foreign policy legacy before we see the final version by the June 30 deadline, or even later.

But we do know this: Although the framework is imperfect and compromises were made, the U.S. negotiators got more out of Iran than many expected. If adequately fleshed out, this deal holds the potential to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuke for two decades or longer. So it's time for congressional hawks to stop trying to kill any deal by imposing new sanctions while talks continue.

Last week, I proposed four rules by which to judge an Iran deal. Let's use these rules to evaluate what's been achieved so far.

■ Rule One. It's vital to weigh the risks of a deal against the security costs of no deal (this is a separate issue from whether a deal can be improved).

Already, many critics of the framework accord claim it would be preferable to tighten sanctions and demand that Iran dismantle its program completely. That won't happen. And if we look at history, while sanctions drove Iran to the table, they didn't stop the ayatollahs from building more and better centrifuges to enrich uranium. That enrichment program has effectively been frozen while talks continue and would be radically shrunk by the proposed deal.

On the other hand, imposing more sanctions now would push Tehran to abandon talks and start those centrifuges spinning again, while increasing their numbers and sophistication. This in turn would increase pressure on Israel and Washington to contemplate military strikes on Iran, starting a new Mideast war with an unpredictable ending.

Military strikes might set Iran's nuclear program back a couple of years. But they would surely convince Iran's leaders that they needed to move beyond the nuclear threshold and actually make a bomb, a decision they don't appear to have made.

■ Rule Two. There is no perfect deal. The debate is over whether a deal is acceptable.

The United States (along with the other negotiating nations: Britain, France, Russia, China, and Germany) is trying to ensure that Iran has no path to building a bomb for at least 15 years, possibly longer.

Iran has agreed, among other concessions, to reduce the number of its centrifuges by two-thirds, and to reduce its large stockpile of low-enriched uranium from 10,000 kilograms to 300. It will also redesign its Arak research reactor so it no longer has the capacity to

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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produce plutonium fuel for a bomb.

Most important, Tehran will accept an unprecedented regime of international inspections for every aspect of its nuclear energy program; these will hopefully ensure that, if the Iranians tried to break out or sneak out of a deal, it would take them a year, during which time they would be discovered. Many of these intense inspections are supposed to continue for two decades or indefinitely.

Yes, there were worrying compromises in the framework, like the continued operation of the deep underground facility at Fordow, which may be bombproof. Any nuclear enrichment activities will be banned at Fordow for 15 years, and it will be under inspection even after then. But far better had it been closed.

And yes, there are unanswered questions and vague phrases in the framework that are nervous-making. Examples: How quickly will U.S. and international sanctions on Iran be lifted? And we don't yet know on what basis they could be "snapped back" if Iran is found in violation, and for how long this protection will be permitted. Nor do we know whether Iran must come clean about suspected past work on nuclear weaponization before it gets sanctions relief.

Yet, when taken as a whole, this framework appears to hold the potential to meet the number-one priority of the talks—preventing Iran from building nuclear weapons for at least 15 years, and probably longer. The alternatives proposed by critics seem far more likely to push Iran to the nuclear threshold—and perhaps to a bomb.

■ Rule Three. Don't expect a nuclear deal to improve Iran's behavior in the region. Israel, Sunni Arab states, and American critics of a deal argue that an end to sanctions will provide Iran with the wealth to act more aggressively. Perhaps. But an end to talks won't improve Iranian behavior, and an Iran with a bomb would be even more threatening to the region. The trade-offs here are tricky, but they must be thought through clearly, not through an emotional haze.

■ Rule Four. If a deal is not at hand, keep talking.

It may prove dicey to close this deal. But so long as the two sides are at the table, Iran will likely stick to a temporary freeze on its program. In the meantime, Obama would do well to assuage Congress by being more forthcoming in briefings.

There is no perfect outcome to this process, but a decent deal is far preferable to the alternative if talks fail.

EDITORIAL POLICY

tions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Rediscovering the Constitution

By **MIKE LEE**
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Mike Lee is a Republican U.S. senator from Utah. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

In the words of Justice Anthony Kennedy, “You cannot preserve what you do not revere. You cannot protect what you do not comprehend. You cannot defend what you do not know.” To that profound statement, I would add: You cannot find what you do not know is lost.

Over the last century our great nation has experienced a steady, and sometimes deliberate, drift away from its founding principles. Many have questioned whether our Constitution has been lost in the process—not physically lost, of course, but lost in the sense that, in forgetting about many of that document’s most important features, we have ceased to uphold them and lost the protections they offer. Nevertheless, I am convinced that these features are not gone forever but lost in plain sight.

What is abundantly clear to most Americans is that big government spies on, lies to, and targets us as citizens. It taxes us too heavily and regulates our lives relentlessly. And it does so in a manner that cannot be reconciled with the text and history of the Constitution. Americans intuitively understand that we have lost something over the years; they sense something is missing but aren’t sure what it is or where to find it.

In my office in the Senate, I keep two stacks of documents, a visual reminder of one of the things that is lost when elected officials and citizens lose sight of the Constitution. The first is a collection of all the legislation passed by Congress in 2014; just a few hundred

pages in length, this stack is only a few inches tall. The second is a collection of regulations adopted by federal agencies that same year; it is roughly 11 feet tall. The contrast is startling and serves as a reminder that most of our laws are now put in place not by Congress—which, according to the Constitution, possesses “all legislative powers” within the federal government—but by federal bureaucracies.

To be clear, bureaucrats have not stolen lawmaking authority from Congress. Instead, Congress has delegated that power to the executive branch by legislating in broad, lofty terms and then outsourcing the tedious and often controversial task of filling in the details.

The problem with this arrangement is not that members of Congress are inherently wiser than their bureaucratic counterparts; nor can it fairly be said that the latter are somehow incompetent or malevolent. The men and women who write our federal regulations are, for the most part, well-educated, hardworking, and well-intentioned.

The problem is that far too many of our laws are made by men and women who are not elected and therefore are not accountable to the people governed by the rules being promulgated.

The Constitution gives Congress, not third-party federal employees, the power to make law. When Congress delegates that power, it interrupts the delicate system of accountability designed by our founding fathers. This system is neither liberal nor conservative, neither Democratic nor Republican; it is simply American. To the extent we have adhered to that system, it has served us well. But our willingness to neglect the Constitution has made us less free and subjected us to a form of government not of our own choosing.

The American ideals of limited government and individual freedom are hanging in the balance and are under attack. We must discover that the backbone of a free society and America’s greatest contribution to the world is the idea that we can pursue happiness in a society that gives power to the people by restraining the power of government.

The Constitution is not a document for the past; it has always been a promise for the future. And to the extent we have departed from it, we must reclaim our future by rediscovering our past.

To find what has been lost, we must look not only to our nation’s founding documents but also to the lives and legacies of the founders. Their stories are our stories; they unite and teach us about who we are, what we should expect, and what we can create together. They give rise to new courage needed in a time when, more than

History repeats itself with the first robot roadtrip

By **MICHAEL FARREN**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

In 1903, Horatio Jackson, Sewall Crocker, and their dog, Bud, drove across the nation and into the history books, becoming the first team to successfully make the transcontinental trip from San Francisco to New York City. Last week marked another historic, continentwide expedition, although this time the Delphi Automotive team’s traveling companion wasn’t a dog, but a robot chauffeur. A driverless car, starting from the Golden Gate Bridge, safely traveled the intervening 3,500 miles to arrive just in time for the New York International Auto Show.

It’s hard to downplay this accomplishment, but feats such as these—and the potential benefits they herald—require an atmosphere of intellectual freedom to achieve.

If autonomous vehicles can navigate the impending bureaucracy and enter widespread use, the greatest benefit they offer is vastly improved roadway safety. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reported nearly 33,000 fatalities from motor vehicle crashes in 2013. Another 2.3 million people were injured in 5.7 million total traffic accidents. Meanwhile, driver error has been found to be the cause in nearly 95 percent of crashes.

Autonomous vehicle instruments are not distracted by phone conversations, following GPS directions or an attractive person strutting down the sidewalk. The computer’s decisions and reactions are not dulled by sleep deprivation or insobriety. While there may be some aspects of driving in which humans retain an advantage, autonomous vehicles offer the opportunity to fix a very large part of what we often get tragically wrong.

Increased personal convenience is another key benefit to autonomous vehicles. The Census Bureau estimates that Americans annually spend over 23.5 billion hours driving to work (over 210 hours per person). This is time that could be recovered and used for productive or recreational purposes if autonomous vehicle usage became widespread. Imagine family vacations where getting there was actually part of the fun!

A third important outcome of widespread autonomous vehicle adoption would be its potential for changing our transportation structure and the use of space, especially in urban areas. Most of a vehicle’s time is spent idle, but autonomous technology offers the potential to more efficiently use this under-utilized asset. Each vehicle would have the potential to serve as a robot cab, meaning that the total

number of vehicles needed to meet a city’s demand for transportation could be reduced, along with urban congestion and parking capacity.

The benefits that autonomous vehicles offer are difficult to overstate, for both individuals and society as a whole, but these benefits are threatened by regulatory legislation that has already been proposed in 28 state legislatures. Google already warned the California Department of Motor Vehicles that requiring certain safety technology be built into autonomous vehicles could restrict better safety innovations in the future. In addition, there is always the potential for regulatory capture by special interests attempting to direct the regulation for their own benefit.

Regulation of autonomous vehicles—or other technological advances—is not intrinsically a bad thing. There are both appropriate and inappropriate uses for every kind of technology. However, lawmakers should resist the urge to use the “precautionary principle” approach when considering regulation. The precautionary principle creates a stifling atmosphere for innovation by requiring a “Mother, may I?” attitude from entrepreneurs.

We need to provide visionaries with an environment of “permissionless innovation”—what scholars like my colleague Adam Thierer describe as “the general freedom to experiment with new technologies and business models”—in order to develop the life-changing innovations the rest of us will enjoy. Permissionless innovation encourages experimentation and discovery within the constraint of established legal frameworks that already protect each person from the negligence of others.

This triumph of modern technology is driven by the vision of innovators and fueled by the demand of the public for progress that enhances the quality of life. Without both halves of the equation—the genius of the inventors and the reward offered to them for their efforts—new developments such as these aren’t possible. And in many cases future advances cannot be predicted based on the perspective of the past. As Steve Jobs said: “You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards.”

Jackson, Crocker and Bud didn’t ask for permission to drive beyond the limits of the paved roads available in 1903, and our modern pioneering innovators shouldn’t have to either.

Michael Farren is a Frederic Bastiat Fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and a PhD candidate at Ohio State University. Readers may send him mail at: Mercatus Center, 3434 Washington Blvd., fourth floor, Arlington, Va., 22201.

ever, Americans view the future with apprehension. Such a search isn’t about just yearning for the greatness of the past, but realizing that there is still more for free people to do, to be and to become.

It’s time to usher in a new era of limited power in government and unlimited potential in America. There are jobs to grow, communities to strengthen, individuals to lift and progress to be made. There is security to pass on to our children and prosperity unmatched to obtain.

By discovering our lost Constitution, we can find the future we long for; and while looking back to the lives and stories of those who have gone before, we can confidently and clearly move toward America’s greatest century.

LITERARY NOOK

An abecedarian haiku/senryu calendar for April

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

- 1st April adolescence / fools rush in / teenage years
- 2nd April birthday /to be or not to be/Shakespeare baptized (23rd)
- 3rd April come she will / for Easter / a new yellow raincoat
- 4th April dews and don’ts / thunder lightening and rain / threatening
- 5th April eggs / hardboiled in a basket / chocolate foiled
- 6th April fools / forget what they’re like / in May and June
- 7th April gala / ‘Singing In the Rain’ / goofing on ‘a stairs’
- 8th April hi jinx /fooling around / in a mud puddle
- 9th April injustice / pouring rain / on her sixth birthday
- 10th April joker / cracks / a grin
- 11th April kick off / soccer balls/ hit foolish heads
- 12th “April Love”/ Pat Boone/ croons
- 13th April moon / fools in love / underneath
- 14th April noon/ high calorie buffet/ back for a fourth plate
- 15th April on again /off again rain showers /can’t decide
- 16th April planting /peanuts and potatoes/ both buttered and mashed
- 17th April quilt /frost mud slush and gush/city square’s a mess
- 18th April rush/ daffodils / visible
- 19th April stars forecast/ Oscars out tonight / dim tomorrow
- 20th April torrent / all at once / gone in a flash
- 21st April umbrellas / tool of the month/ sold out
- 22nd April violets/ my mother’s favorites/ by mossy stones
- 23rd April weather / May around the corner/ thank goodness
- 24th April X rated / railroad crossing signal light/ on for days
- 25th April yellow lights / sign of things to come / use caution
- 26th April zinnias / unheard of / way too early
- 27th April en Paris/ le petite fleur monsieur /avec plaisir
- 28th April in Perth /fall for all its worth/ down under
- 29th April prognostication/Portland,ME to Portland,OR/ rain
- 30th April in Brooklyn / schlepping in the rain / making groceries

FACEBOOK or Worse? Chapter and Verse

FACEBOOK or worse? What could it be?
reading names, watching video streams
some FRIEND you’ll never meet but see
cyber space drifting, all day dreams
mousing around, LIKEing, TEXTING
pitter patter TWITTER chatter
your kids growing up all SEXTING
YOU TUBE TWERKING, getting fatter
Dick Tracy e-mail sent from your wrist
or from GOOGLE glasses perched on your nose
what else is new on your gadget list
electronics sewn into your clothes
have you had all the FB you can stand
step outside, say hello, shake someone’s hand






Here is a short poem dedicated to Han Shan (Cold Mountain) a famous Taoist/Buddhist hermit who lived in China around 1,200 years ago.

I Chose A Secluded Place

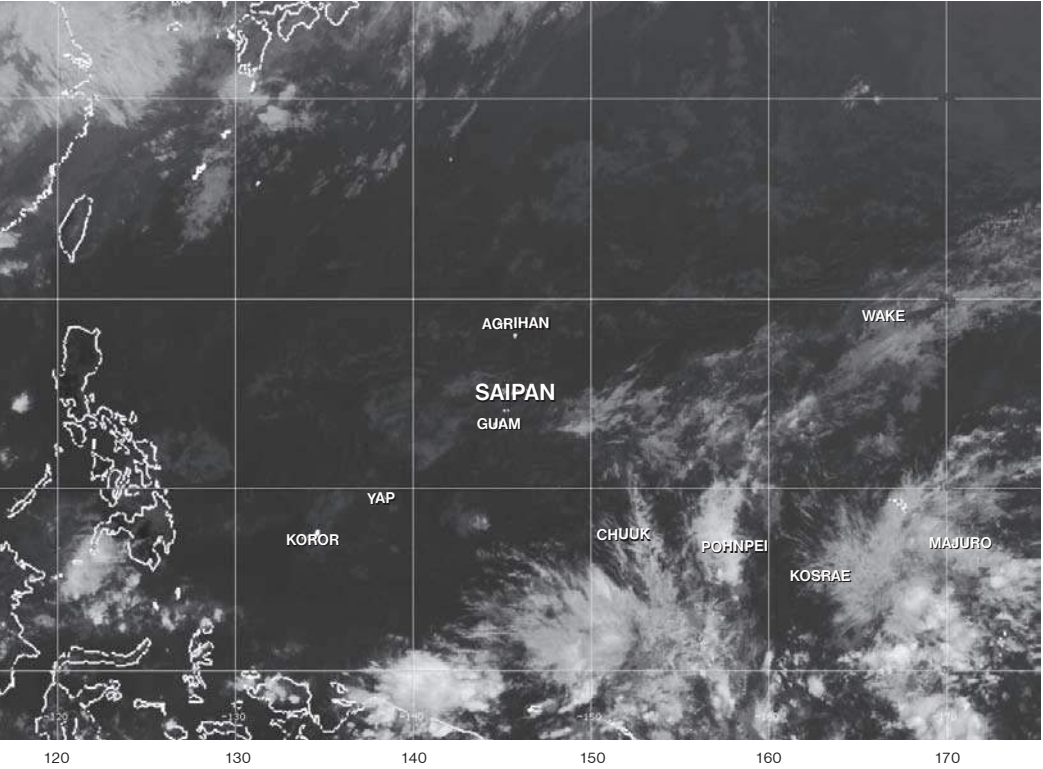
I chose a secluded place to live
for me Tinian has it all
typhoons howl and waves crash on the beach
a view of Goat Island from my porch
I pick some wild papaya and mangoes
I make a smoothie and drink to spring
glad at last to settle down
reading and writing I pass the years...

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough curves east-northeastward from 2N130E to the dissipated remnant of Tropical Depression Haishen near 9N149E then continues southeastward to end southeast of Kosrae near EQ166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Chuuk and around Pohnpei south of a line from 3N143E to 8N156E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of Kosrae between 1N and 9N from 164E to 175E, including Majuro. A shear line extends west-southwestward from 24N180E to south of Wake Island near 17N167E then continues to northeast of Chuuk at 11N158E then runs westward to end near 12N140E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84	▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 89	▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 82

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲ 76	▼ 64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59	▼ 42
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 75	▼ 66
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 81	▼ 70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64	▼ 47
Los Angeles	Rain	▲ 64	▼ 48
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 90	▼ 74
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 64	▼ 50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 72
New York	Rain	▲ 60	▼ 44
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 55	▼ 43
Paris	Sunny	▲ 62	▼ 38
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 56	▼ 42
Rome	Windy	▲ 56	▼ 43
Salem	Showers	▲ 59	▼ 44
San Francisco	Thundershowers	▲ 58	▼ 48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 58	▼ 34
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 47	▼ 40
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 76	▼ 53



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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:09 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	9:40 PM	8:37A M
Thursday	10:33 PM	9:25 AM
Friday	11:26 PM	10:16 AM
Saturday		11:10 AM
Sunday	12:19 AM	12:06 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ624/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

GCA Kagman holds 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

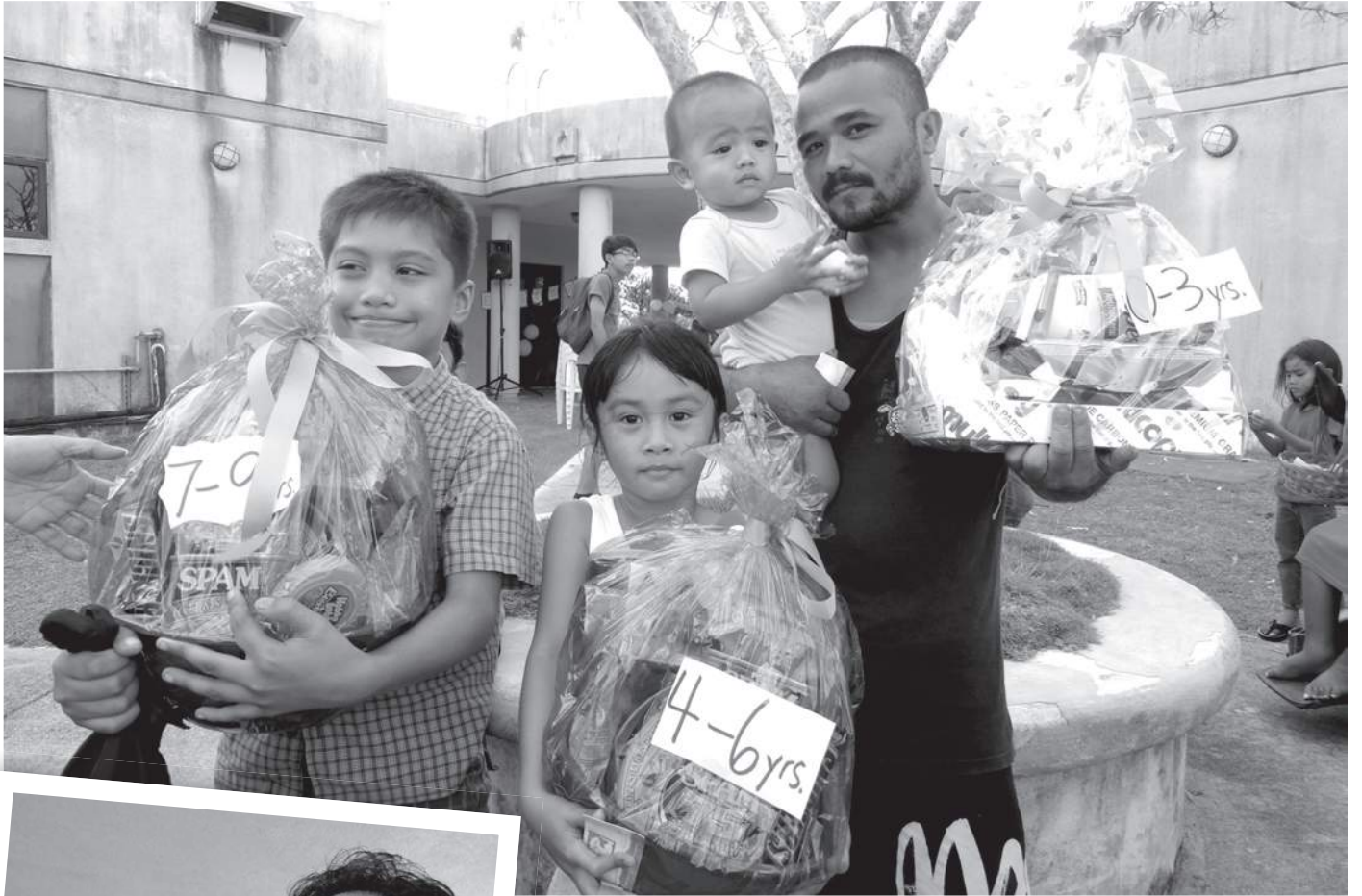
The Grace Christian Assembly Kagman held its 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Kagman Community Center on Saturday, April 4, 2015, with over a

hundred children participating. TSL Foundation donated 10 soccer balls and 10 Altanx drawstring bags as prizes for the ensuing raffle drawing. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kimmy Dilse and other youths interpret the song *You are the Reason*, as sung by Sister Rowena Libut and Pastor Danny Dilse.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of the 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt—those who found the golden egg—show off the prizes they won. There were three categories based on age: from 0 to 3 years old, 4 to 6 years old, and 7 to 9 years old.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt of the Grace Christian Assembly Kagman also featured a puppet show.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brother Cesar Libut delivers the message about Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Beth Nuñez, right, and Alleny Tenorio, left, flank the winner of the raffle drawing during the 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Pastor Danny Dilse receives the donation of 10 soccer balls and 10 drawstring bags from Merlie Tolentino of TSL Foundation. Also in photo are Mae Ito and Jerish Angeles of Saipan Soccer School. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parents help their children hunt for Easter eggs at the grounds of the Kagman Community Center on Saturday, April 4, 2015, as part of the Grace Christian Assembly Kagman's 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Business

Fast-growing Asian aviation confronts safety challenges

HONG KONG (AP)—For Asia's aviation industry, the growing pains have just begun.

A year of disasters, the disappearance of Flight 370 and financial turbulence highlight the challenges confronting the world's biggest air travel market, where governments, regulators and airlines are struggling to keep up after a decade of astonishing growth.

A U.N. agency's warning about airline safety in Thailand, one of the world's top tourist destinations, is just the latest sign of ferment in the industry.

The boom has been driven by the region's explosive economic growth and market liberalizations that have allowed dozens of new discount carriers to flourish, turning the airline business on its head.

The strains are also showing in recurring pilot shortages and shortcomings in air traffic control systems and airport infrastructure that countries are scrambling to upgrade, especially in big Southeast Asian nations such as Indonesia.

"We're in uncharted waters," said Desmond Ross, principal at DRA International aviation consultants and former head

of the Pacific Aviation Safety Office, which oversees airline safety for South Pacific islands. "I don't think the world has seen this sort of growth before."

A third of airplane accidents in the Asia-Pacific region from 2008 to 2012 "involved deficiencies in regulatory oversight," the International Civil Aviation Organization said in a report this year. Another 27 per-

cent involved "deficiencies in safety management."

Meanwhile, the agency's recent audit of Thailand has produced disquieting revelations about what lies below the surface of a country that has marketed itself to the world as a safe and welcoming destination.

The agency informed governments in March of "significant safety concerns," prompting several Asian nations to step up inspections of Thai airlines or block them from launching new flights and modifying schedules.

The leader of Thailand's military government, which ousted its civilian predecessor in a coup last year, blamed years of neglect for allowing problems to accumulate to a critical mass. He said the civil aviation department has only 12 inspectors, a figure unchanged for years despite huge growth in tourism.

The dictator has vowed to use his authoritarian powers to overhaul aviation, but it's unclear whether sweeping changes

can be implemented fast enough to avoid a damaging downgrade of Thailand's safety rating.

Ross said Thailand's problems are not unique and stem from the "superfast expansion that's been taking place over the last 10 years." Aside from hurting tourism, the ICAO warning could also prompt insurance companies to raise their rates for airlines operating in Thailand.

Passenger numbers in Asia-Pacific have risen by a third over the past five years to 1.1 billion, and the region now accounts for 33 percent of global air passenger traffic, according to the International Air Transport Association. That proportion is forecast to grow to 42 percent within the next two decades as an extra 1.8 billion passengers take to the skies.

Another big source of concern is Indonesia, where in December an AirAsia jet carrying 162 people plummeted into the sea as it ran into stormy weather on its way from Surabaya to Singapore.



In this March 2, 2015 file photo, security guards stand near the newly-recovered remains of the fuselage of the ill-fated AirAsia Flight 8501 on the deck of rescue ship Crest Onyx at Tanjung Priok port in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Greenpeace group boards Arctic offshore drill rig in Pacific

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Six Greenpeace activists protesting Arctic offshore drilling on Monday boarded a drill rig as it was transported across the Pacific Ocean toward Seattle, where it will be staged for drilling on Shell leases in Alaska waters.

The 400-foot Polar Pioneer, owned by Transocean Ltd., was on board a heavy-lift vessel about 750 miles northwest of Hawaii when the activists approached in inflatable boats and used climbing gear to get on board, Greenpeace spokesman Travis Nichols said.

They plan to unfurl a banner in protest of Arctic offshore drilling but have no plans to interfere with the ship's navigations, he said.

"All six people on the ship are experienced climbers in their normal daily lives and have the professional training and equipment needed to climb on to the rig safely without interfering with its operation," Nichols said by email.

Shell USA spokeswoman Kelly Op De Weegh said by email that Greenpeace protest-

ers illegally boarded the vessel, called the Blue Marlin, jeopardizing their safety and that of the crew.

She said Royal Dutch Shell PLC has met with groups that oppose energy exploration in Alaska waters.

"We respect their views and

value the dialogue," Op De Weegh wrote. "We will not, however, condone the illegal tactics employed by Greenpeace. Nor will we allow these stunts to distract from preparations underway to execute a safe and responsible exploration program."

Petty Officer Third Class Melissa McKenzie of the Coast Guard's 14th District in Honolulu confirmed the Coast Guard received word from Blue Marlin crew members that a group had boarded the vessel. The office did not receive a request for assistance.

Samsung shows signs of emerging from earnings slump

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung's quarterly operating earnings fell 31 percent from a year earlier but the drop wasn't as big as expected in a sign the smartphone and computer chip giant may be emerging from its profit slump.

The company on Tuesday estimated its January-March operating profit at 5.9 trillion won (\$5.4 billion), exceeding the average 5.5 trillion won forecast in a FactSet survey of analysts.

Samsung did not give a breakdown of its financial performance but analysts said robust demand for its mobile chips and improvements in its

smartphone business were behind the relative improvement. It will release its full quarterly results later this month.

The company's operating profit was an improvement from the previous two quarters when its mobile business, which accounts for two-thirds of Samsung's income, suffered from a sales slowdown. Samsung estimated that its sales fell 12 percent to 47 trillion won (\$43 billion) during the first quarter.

Analysts believe the South Korean company's profits hit bottom during the third quarter.

They expect a recovery in Samsung's bottom line in the current quarter as the company

is set to launch the latest version of its flagship smartphone, the Galaxy S6, on Friday.

After criticism that its phones look cheap and are too complicated to use, Samsung ditched plastic, using aluminum and glass for the new flagship smartphone's body. The company also removed many apps that were installed on the phones that critics said cluttered screen space without being useful.

Solid demand for semiconductor devices that are used as components for mobile gadgets will continue to help drive a recovery in Samsung's profits, according to analysts.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Citibank's Argentine headquarters inspected amid debt fight

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The central bank sent regulators to inspect Citibank's local headquarters Monday after the leader of the branch was suspended amid a legal battle over Argentina's debt. Regulators are working to verify whether the bank was able to maintain normal operations following CEO Gabriel Ribisich's suspension last week, the government news agency Telam said. A Citibank spokesman reached Monday declined comment. The dispute is the latest fallout from a long-standing legal battle between Argentina and a group of U.S. creditors that refused to accept debt swaps in 2005 and 2010. U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa in New York has ruled that Argentina can't pay holders of its restructured debt without also paying the holdout funds.

Turkey restores access to Twitter, YouTube

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey blocked access to social networking sites Twitter and YouTube for several hours on Monday over photos showing a militant pointing a gun at a prosecutor who died last week in a failed hostage rescue operation. Turkey also threatened to ban Google over the images. A spokesman for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said a Turkish prosecutor had ordered Internet providers to block the sites. The request stemmed from postings of photos that showed militant Marxists pointing a gun at

the prosecutor, Mehmet Selim Kiraz, who died in a shootout between police and the Marxists who were holding him hostage. Government officials have blasted Turkish media for posting the images, which they have called anti-government propaganda. Kiraz, was shot in the head during the standoff and died in a hospital soon after.

US safety board: Oil train tank cars need urgent upgrades

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—Tank cars carrying oil or ethanol by rail urgently need to be retrofitted or replaced to make them more fire-resistant after a spate of explosive accidents in recent months revealed the shortcomings of voluntary industry standards, U.S. safety officials said Monday. The National Transportation Safety Board issued a series of recommendations calling for tank cars to be fitted with protective systems better able to withstand fire than the bare steel construction now widely in use. It said a decade-long retrofit timeline that's been suggested by the tank car industry was too long to wait. "The longer we wait, the more we expose the public to the problems of these cars that aren't especially robust," NTSB Chairman Christopher Hart told The Associated Press. One alternative cited by the safety board would equip flammable liquids cars with ceramic "thermal blankets" that surround the tank and shield it from intense heat should a nearby car catch fire. Those blankets already are used for transporting liquefied petroleum gas.

Nation

AP: Handful of holdout tribes dig in against gay marriage

By JONATHAN DREW and FELICIA FONSECA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even if a U.S. Supreme Court ruling this spring makes same-sex marriage the law, it would leave pockets of the country where it isn't likely to be recognized any time soon: the reservations of a handful of sovereign Native American tribes, including the nation's two largest.

Since 2011, as the number of states recognizing such unions spiked to 37, at least six smaller tribes have revisited and let stand laws that define marriage as being between a man and a woman, according to an Associated Press review of tribal records. In all, tribes with a total membership approaching 1 million won't recognize marriages between two men or two women.

Several explicitly declare that same-sex marriages are prohibited. And some have even toughened their stance.

In December, just weeks after North Carolina began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the state's Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians updated its law to add language preventing gay couples from having marriage ceremonies performed on tribal land. The resolution changing the law, which passed 8-1, says court cases around the

country prompted the tribe of about 13,000 enrolled members to review its own laws.

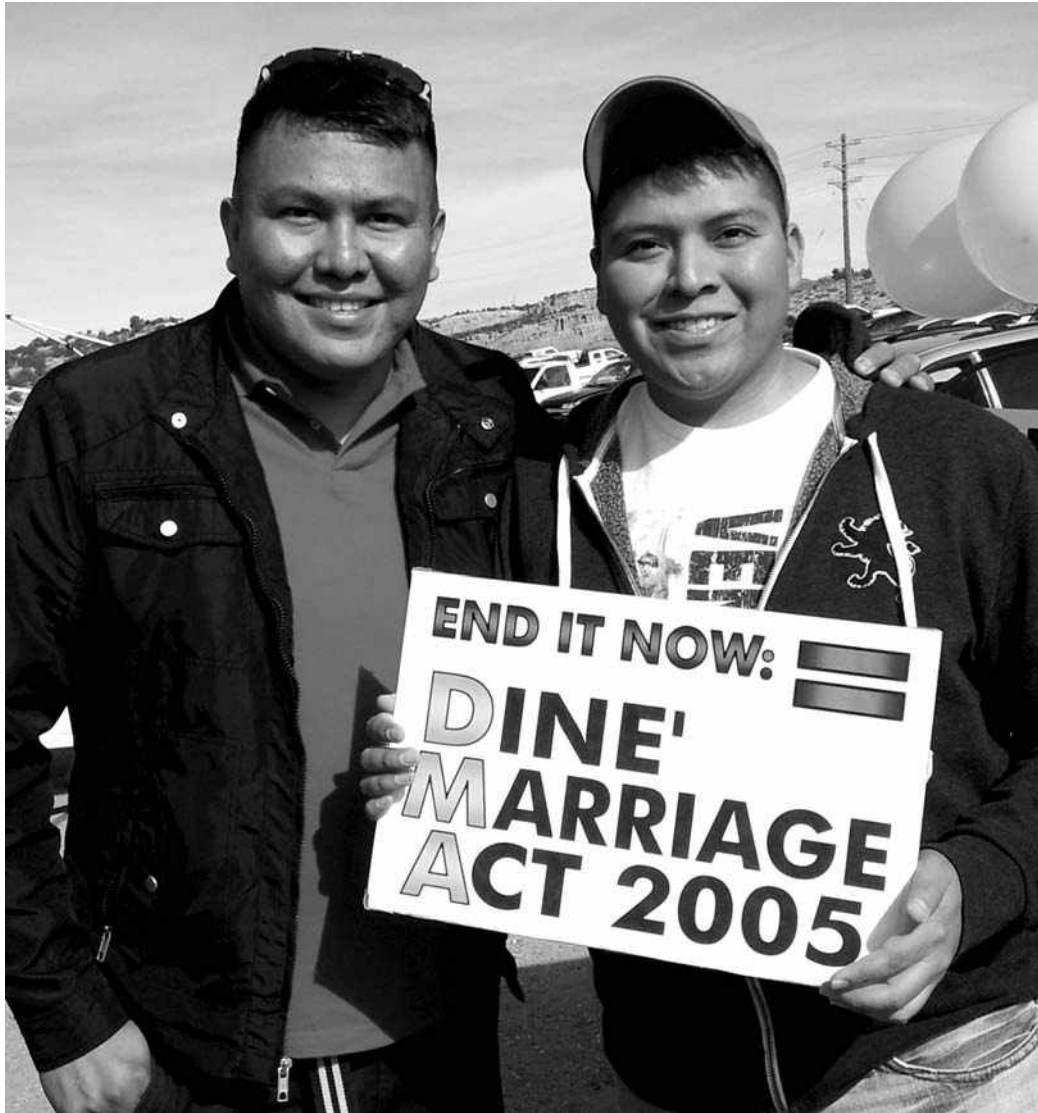
The Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma and the Navajo Nation, with about 300,000 members each, maintain decade-old laws that don't recognize same-sex marriage. Neither tribe has shown much sign of shifting.

Alray Nelson, a gay rights activist who lives with his partner Brennen Yonnie on the Navajo reservation, said the tribe's law denies same-sex couples the right to be included in decisions on a partner's health care, or to share in a home site lease. Getting a marriage license would only require a short drive to a courthouse off the reservation, but the couple—both enrolled Navajo members—would rather wait until it's allowed on the reservation.

"We are both planning to build a life here, and we want to raise a family," he said. "So it's not an option for us to remove ourselves from our community."

As with the states, opposition to gay marriage varies among tribes. At least 10 have recognized same-sex marriage, often well ahead of their surrounding states and without having judges force their hands. Many others are neutral.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments April 28 and could decide by June whether



In this Jan. 25, 2014 photo provided by Jerry Archuleta, Alray Nelson, left, and Brennen Yonnie, right, pose for a photo at the flea market in Gallup, N.M.

gay couples can marry in the remaining states and U.S. territories where it's not allowed. But while 27 states that allow gay marriage got dragged over the threshold by judges, the sovereign status of federally recognized tribes means a Supreme Court ruling wouldn't directly affect their laws.

Cherokee officials in Oklahoma and North Carolina say nothing in their laws prevents members from getting marriage licenses in adjacent counties. The Oklahoma-based Cherokee Nation, which has a separate government and laws from the Eastern Band, passed its marriage law in 2004.

The Navajo Nation Council voted in 2005 to ban same-sex marriages on the 27,000 square-mile reservation that extends into Arizona, New Mexico and Utah—all states where such marriages are legal. Then-President Joe Shirley Jr. vetoed the measure, but lawmakers overturned it.

There's been no push recently among tribal lawmakers to change that, said council spokesman Jared Touchin.

The Osage Nation, bordering Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed a wide-ranging marriage law in 2012 that doesn't recognize same-sex unions.

Relatives: Man, kids died from carbon monoxide poisoning

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. (AP)—A man and his seven children found dead in their Maryland home Monday were poisoned by carbon monoxide from a generator they were using after the power company cut off their electricity, a couple who identified themselves as the man's mother and stepfather said.

Police found the bodies at the home in Princess Anne after being contacted by a concerned co-worker of the father, who had not been seen for days, Princess Anne police said in a news release.

They identified the deceased only as an adult and seven young people ages 6 to the teens. They said the cause of the deaths was still under investigation.

Bonnie and Lloyd Edwards, encountered outside the home by a reporter from The Associated Press, identified themselves as the mother and stepfather of Rodney Todd, 36, whom they identified as the adult who died. They said Todd had seven children, including five girls and two boys. The Edwardses said police told them the family died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Bonnie Edwards identified

the children as boys Cameron Todd, 13, and Zyheim Todd, 7; and girls Tynjiuza Todd, 15; Tykira Todd, 12; Tybree Todd, 10; Tyania Todd, 9; and Tybria Todd, 6.

Lloyd Edwards said when police told them Todd had died, "It was disbelief."

"It's so hard. How can you understand something like that?"

He said Delmarva Power had cut off the electricity to the house because of an outstanding bill.

"To keep his seven children warm, (Todd) bought a generator," Lloyd Edwards said. "It went out and the carbon monoxide consumed them."

Princess Anne Police Chief Scott Keller told the AP there was a generator in the kitchen that was out of gasoline.

Matt Likovich, a spokesman for Delmarva Power, would not say Monday night whether the power had been cut off. He said the matter was being investigated.

Bonnie Edwards described her son as a loving, caring young man who set an example for his children. "I don't know anyone his age who would have done what he did" for his children, she said. "I was so proud to say he took care of seven kids."

Police testing spent shell casings faster to solve gun crime

DENVER (AP)—Detectives in Denver were on the hunt for an increasingly brazen shooter.

A burglar fired through a woman's dining room window when she threatened to call police. Ten minutes later and a mile away, someone broke into another home and shot a Bernese Mountain Dog.

Officers scooped up the spent shell casings and wondered where he would strike next.

Their break came when a witness said he was fired upon in a street fight two days later.

Police gathered six more casings that were quickly entered into a national ballistics database and matched all three crimes. The evidence helped

put Anthony Dennis in jail and keep him there.

In many U.S. police departments, that evidence might have been shelved in an overworked crime lab, where analysts would only run it through the database to prepare a case for trial.

But authorities in Denver are leading a national trend to put ballistics evidence into the hands of investigators much more quickly—before leads dry up and suspects disappear.

"Police are beginning to understand that if you don't quickly respond and address gun violence it can spread over space, and it can escalate much like a measles outbreak," said Daniel Webster, director of the

Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, which is studying whether these efforts create sustained reductions in gun violence.

Matched shell casings have helped lead to at least 35 arrests in more than 50 shootings in the two years since Denver began operating its Crime Gun Intelligence Center. At least 13 other suspects were charged with federal gun crimes, and five more had their parole revoked, according to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The goal is to stop "active shooters," people who "have already proven they have no qualms about pulling the trig-

ger multiple times," said Jeff Russell, supervisory special agent in the Denver ATF office. "The urgency is there to stop that person before they commit the next shooting."

In Denver, Chicago, Milwaukee, New Orleans and other cities, shell casings are now loaded into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network within days of a crime. A machine takes images of the unique, microscopic markings at the base of each casing. Computer software then produces potential matches, and detectives and ATF agents study the linked cases for other similarities, such as suspect or vehicle descriptions.

Rain, winds headed to California, but little drought help

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Last week, Gov. Jerry Brown stood in dry brown grass at a site normally covered in snow this time of year and declared the drought conditions gripping the state at its worst point in decades.

Had it been a week later, things might have looked different.

In the wake of an incredibly warm March, an unusually cold spring storm is rolling in, and that barren field where no snow was measured last week at Echo Summit could be covered this week.

Of course, the strong and wet storm that will linger in Northern California through mid-week will do little to help the fix the drought.

"It's a start but it's just not enough," National Weather Service Forecaster Diana Henderson said. "We have a rather large deficit to make up for. One or 2 inches around the Bay Area is just not going to do it."

Rain and snow is expected Monday night and thunderstorms, possibly with small hail, could roll in Tuesday.

Higher up, forecasters say

6 to 12 inches of snow could hit about 4,000 feet with 1 to 2 feet on the higher peaks. The National Weather Service in Sacramento has issued a winter storm warning above 3,500 feet for heavy snow, which is in effect from 6 p.m. Monday to 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Mountain travel could be hazardous with slick road and motorist should carry chains and watch speeds, especially above 3,500 feet.

The storm was expected to reach Southern California overnight Monday, spreading

moderate rain down the Central Coast to the Los Angeles basin by Tuesday afternoon. Snow levels will lower to 4,500 feet late that night, forecasters said. Skies will clear out Wednesday.

The April 1 snow survey in the Sierra Nevada that Brown attended measured at a dismal 5 percent of historical average.

That same day Brown announced an order requiring the State Water Resources Control Board to implement measures in cities and towns to cut the state's overall water usage by 25 percent compared with 2013 levels.

Asia

New labor activists emerge from China's migrant workers

By DIDI TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHENZHEN, China (AP)—A new crop of labor leaders is emerging in China as migrant factory workers increasingly demand their rights and a fair share of the country's now-slumping economic boom.

Disillusioned with China's officially sanctioned labor union, workers are electing their own representatives and launching strikes and protests at a rate that has doubled each of the past several years to 1,300 in 2014. Here are some of these new leaders:

YOUNG AND UNFAZED:

At 27, Qi Jianguang is one of the youngest of these worker representatives.

After working eight years at a golfing equipment factory in southern Shenzhen, he and other workers discovered that management had failed to make social security contributions, a common lapse long, often ignored by authorities.

The plant's 3,000 workers elected 13 representatives to negotiate with management, and Qi was the youngest at age 26. "Maybe it's my personality," said Qi, a tall and lanky man. "I felt like someone should come forward."

After failed negotiations, workers went on strike last July. Qi was briefly detained by po-



AP
In this March 26, 2015 photo, workers gather at one end of a floor as they strike at the Cuiheng Handbag Factory in Nanlang township in Zhongshan city in southern China's Guangdong Province.

lice and then released. The strike ended after two days when management agreed to all the workers' demands, a victory they celebrated with a feast, Qi said.

Seven months later, the company fired Qi over accusations that he smeared its reputation and engaged in an illegal strike. Qi is challenging the dismissal at a labor bureau but has little hope.

"We sought help from the official union, but they were finding excuses not to meet us," Qi

said. "The government has been useless. Instead, it's cracked down on us."

KEEPING IT FROM FAMILY:

As with many ordinary Chinese, Ji Jiansheng started first learning about labor issues through online chat rooms. Energized, he began researching the law and was soon elected to be a worker representative at the same golfing company at Qi.

"I felt some pressure because

rights activism is sensitive in China," he said. "My friends were behind me and reassured me everything would be OK as long as we acted within the law."

The two-day strike paid off, but like Qi he was fired several months later, ostensibly because his hearing was unfit for work. He's looking for a new job.

Ji said he has never told his family about his activism, but vows to press on.

The movement needs "unity

and organization" because otherwise it is like "loose sand."

JAILED BUT RESOLUTE:

Wu Guijun, 42, spent about a year in jail on a charge linked to his participation in a May 2013 strike but was eventually released without a conviction. He

now devotes himself to helping workers learn their rights.

The furniture factory where he worked decided to shutter its Shenzhen operations while offering only a fraction of the required severance. Government agencies declined to intervene.

Wu led a strike of 400 workers—and was jailed and arrested on the charge of gathering crowds to disrupt traffic. "I almost collapsed because I lost my freedom," Wu recalled. "The conditions were poor. I was very depressed and felt hopeless."

Wu went on trial but was released a year later without any conviction. He received \$11,000 in state compensation, which he now uses to help spread legal knowledge among workers.

"I don't regret it," Wu said of his time in jail. "And I have less fear now because I have been there. On moral grounds, what I do is right, and I will keep doing it even if they try to frame me."

ASIAN BRIEFS**36 dead, dozens hurt as tropical storms lash Bangladesh**

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Separate tropical storms that swept through parts of Bangladesh have left at least 36 people dead and scores injured. Media reports Monday said that the casualties have been recorded since Saturday and that most deaths took place in the northern district of Bogra. The Bengali-language Prothom Alo newspaper reported that at least 20 people died in Bogra while five people died in Dhaka and the rest in other northern areas as well as in the southwest of the country. The newspaper says the storms also uprooted trees and damaged electricity distribution lines, while hundreds of homes, shops and schools have been flattened in parts of the South Asian nation.

Family of 7 in China drowns in deadly attempt to rescue girl

BEIJING (AP)—Officials say seven members of a family on a holiday outing in southern China drowned when a 17-year-old girl fell into a reservoir and several relatives dove in after her in a deadly attempt to rescue her. The government in the Guang-

dong province city of Shantou said in a statement Monday that none of the relatives were strong swimmers but tried to rescue the girl nonetheless on Sunday. It said the girl and six of her relatives died, including her parents and two other children, aged 13 and 15. The girl fell into the reservoir while washing up after a grave-side ceremony honoring deceased relatives on China's annual Tomb-Sweeping Day holiday.

Blast at chemical plant in south China injures at least 6

BEIJING (AP)—Six people have been hospitalized and hundreds of firefighters deployed to battle a blaze sparked by an explosion at a plant in southern China that produces the toxic chemical paraxylene. Authorities say there have been no chemical leaks due to the blast Monday evening at the Goure PX Plant in Zhangzhou, Fujian province—the second explosion to hit the factory in 20 months. Paraxylene, or PX, is used for making fibers and plastics. Concerns over the safety of PX plants have prompted several protests in China in recent years. Zhangzhou Deputy Mayor Zhang Yiteng told reporters one person was injured at the blast site and an additional five hurt by broken glass.

Malaysia revives detention without trial with new law

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia revived detention without trial when lawmakers approved an anti-terror law Tuesday that the government said was needed to fight Islamic militants, but critics assailed as a giant step backward for human rights in the country.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act bill was passed by Parliament's lower house in the wee hours of the morning after hours of debate, with 79 votes in favor and 60 against. The law allows authorities to detain suspects indefinitely without trial, with no court challenges permitted.

The government said the measure was needed because dozens of Malaysians have been arrested since 2013 for suspected links to the Islamic State group. Authorities on Sunday arrested 17 people, including an Indonesian militant, accused of planning to rob banks and attack police stations and army camps to obtain weapons.

Critics said the new law was a revival of the Internal Security Act, which was repealed in 2012. New York-based Human Rights Watch called it a "giant step backwards for human rights" in Malaysia, and said it

raised concerns that the government will once again use the law to intimidate and silence vocal critics.

"By restoring indefinite detention without trial, Malaysia has re-opened Pandora's Box for politically motivated, abusive state actions that many had thought was closed when the abusive Internal Security Act was revoked in 2012," the group's deputy Asia director, Phil Robertson, said in a statement.

Home Minister Zahid Hamidi, however, said the new law was crucial to curb the rise of

Islamic militants. "This is a real threat, and prevention measures are needed," he said during the debate.

It will take weeks before the bill becomes law, as it needs approval from the upper house and royal assent by the king, but those are considered formalities.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said the 17 people, aged from 14 to 49, were arrested during a secret meeting Sunday to plot attacks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's biggest city, and in the administrative capital of Putrajaya.

Vietnam officials visit China to mend ties after rig spat

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam sent a high-ranking delegation of Communist Party officials and Cabinet ministers to China on Tuesday as the countries seek to mend relations strained by the giant northern neighbor's deployment of an oil rig last year in disputed waters.

The four-day trip was led by Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong, Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh and Minister of Public Security Tran Dai Quang, the party said in a brief statement on its website.

The Communist Party's Nhan Dan newspaper said in a front page editorial that Trong's visit "creates favorable conditions" to resolve problems between the countries, although it did not mention the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Relations between the communist neighbors plunged to its lowest point in years after China parked a giant oil rig last May near the Paracel Islands, which are also claimed by Vietnam.

The incident triggered a near breakdown in ties and sparked the risk of a naval standoff as well as wide-

spread anti-China demonstrations in Vietnam that turned violent and left at least four Chinese nationals dead.

After two months of drilling, China withdrew the billion-dollar rig last July but made clear it was doing so because it had completed its work, not because of the criticism of its actions. China's foreign ministry also cited the typhoon season as a reason for moving the rig.

The rig's deployment was widely seen as part of a strategy by China to gradually stake out its claims in the South China Sea, all or part of which

are also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

The spat exposed Vietnam's lack of options when dealing with its giant neighbor. Hanoi's workings are shrouded in secrecy, but it has long been assumed that the Communist Party is split between a faction that favors a tough line against Beijing—and consequentially stronger ties with the United States and its allies—and those who believe a quiet compromise can be reached with their ideological allies in China.

World

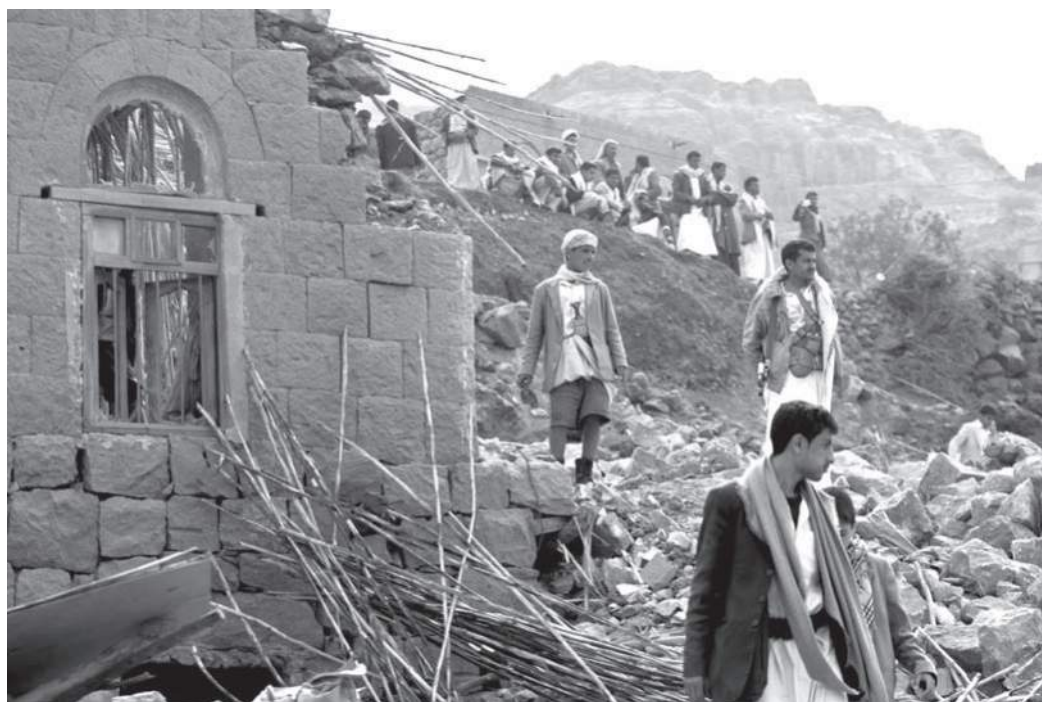
Fierce fighting as rebels move on holdouts in Yemen's Aden

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Pitched fighting intensified Monday in Yemen's second-largest city, Aden, leaving streets littered with bodies, as Shiite rebels and their allies waged their strongest push yet to seize control of the main bastion of supporters of their rival, the country's embattled president.

The fierce fighting in the southern port city on the Arabian Sea raises doubts over the possibility of landing ground forces from a Saudi-led coalition backing President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to try to carve out an enclave to which Hadi, who fled the country two weeks ago, could return.

Saudi Arabia has asked Pakistan to contribute soldiers to the military campaign, as well as air and naval assets, Pakistan's defense minister said Monday. Pakistan's parliament is debating the request and is expected to vote in coming days.

Saudi Arabia has been leading an air campaign since March 26 against the Houthis and their allies, military units loyal to Hadi's predecessor, ousted autocrat Ali Abdullah Saleh. The International Committee for the Red Cross said Monday it was still unable to get medical supplies into the capital, Sanaa, or to Aden



In this Saturday, April 4, 2015 file photo, Yemenis stand amid the rubble of houses destroyed by Saudi-led airstrikes in a village near Sanaa, Yemen.

amid the air and sea blockade by the coalition.

On Monday, Houthi fighters and pro-Saleh forces attacked Aden's Moalla neighborhood, one of the last districts held by Hadi loyalists where the presidential palace, port facilities, TV, government offices and a military camp are located. The districts are on a peninsula that juts into the sea, meaning Hadi's forces are bottled up in the neighborhoods.

Israel official: Military action against Iran still possible

JERUSALEM (AP)—A senior Israeli government minister on Monday warned that taking military action against Iran's nuclear program is still an option—despite last week's framework deal between world powers and the Islamic Republic.

The comments by Yuval Steinitz, Israel's minister for strategic affairs, reflected the alarm in Israel over last week's deal, which offers Iran relief from economic sanctions in exchange for scaling back its suspect nuclear program. Israeli leaders believe the framework leaves too much of Iran's nuclear infrastructure intact and could still allow it to develop the means to produce a nuclear weapon.

Steinitz, a confidant of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's, said the government would spend the coming months lobbying the world powers negotiating with Iran to strengthen the language in the deal as they hammer out a final agreement. While stressing that Israel prefers a diplomatic solution, he said the "military option" still exists.

"It was on the table. It's still on the table. It's going to remain on the table," Steinitz told reporters. "Israel should

be able to defend itself, by itself, against any threat. And it's our right and duty to decide how to defend ourselves, especially if our national security and even very existence is under threat."

Israel considers a nuclear-armed Iran to be a threat to its survival, pointing to years of Iranian calls for Israel's destruction, its support for anti-Israeli militant groups and its development of long-range ballistic missiles that could be armed with nuclear warheads. Israel—which is widely believed to be a nuclear power—says a nuclear-armed Iran would set off an arms race in the world's most volatile region.

The framework agreement was announced last Thursday in Switzerland after years of negotiations between Iran and world powers.

The deal aims to cut significantly into Iran's bomb-making technology while giving Tehran relief from international sanctions. The commitments, if implemented, would substantially pare down Iranian nuclear assets for a decade and restrict others for an additional five years. Iran would also be subject to intrusive international inspections.

"We are jumping over dead bodies," Radwan Allawi, a pro-Hadi fighter, told The Associated Press from Aden. He said mosque loudspeakers were calling on Hadi's supporters to defend Moalla.

"It's intense street fighting, direct fire. The only difference between life and death may be an electricity pole behind which one can hide," the 20-year-old said.

Pro-Hadi fighters destroyed

Kenyan airstrikes hit suspected militant camps in Somalia

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenyan warplanes bombed militant camps in Somalia, officials said Monday, following a vow by President Uhuru Kenyatta to respond "in the fiercest way possible" to a massacre of college students by al-Shabab extremists.

The airstrikes Sunday and Monday targeted the Gedo region of western Somalia, directly across the border from Kenya, said Col. David Obonyo of the Kenyan military.

The al-Shabab camps, which were used to store arms and for logistical support, were destroyed, but it was not possible to determine the number of casualties because of poor visibility, he said.

The Somalia-based militant group claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack at Garissa

University College in northeastern Kenya in which militants killed 148 people, most of them students.

Hawa Yusuf, who lives in a village near the town of Beledhawa that is close to the Kenyan-Somali border, said the warplanes "were hovering around for a few minutes, then started bombing." She didn't know if there were any casualties, she said by phone.

Another resident of the village, Ali Hussein, said the airstrikes hit a grassland "where nomads often take their animals for grazing."

"We are not aware of any military camps located there. They dropped bombs on the whole area," he added.

Al-Shabab fighters often use shrubby areas to conceal fighters and vehicles.

Cuba-US warming held up by listing of Cuba as terror sponsor

HAVANA (AP)—American hopes of opening an embassy in Havana before presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro meet at a regional summit this week have been snarled in disputes about Cuba's presence on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terror and U.S. diplomats' freedom to travel and talk to ordinary Cubans without restriction, officials say.

The Summit of the Americas will be the scene of the presidents' first face-to-face meeting since they announced Dec. 17 that they will re-establish diplomatic relations after a half-century of hostility. The Obama administration wanted

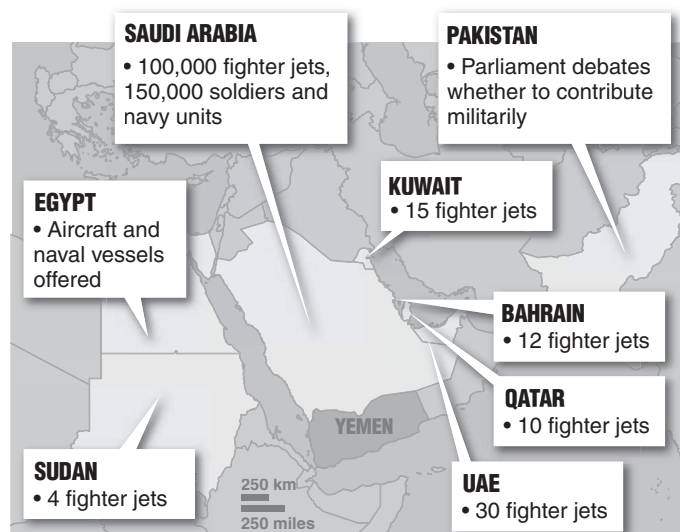
the embassies reopened before the summit starts in Panama on Friday, boosting a new American policy motivated partly by a sense that isolating Cuba was causing friction with other countries in the region.

Arriving at the summit with a deal to reopen embassies in Washington and Havana would create goodwill for the U.S., particularly after it issued new sanctions on select Venezuelan officials last month that prompted protests from left-leaning countries around the hemisphere.

Negotiators on both sides said they are confident they will be able to strike a deal to

Coalition needs troops

The Saudi-led campaign has entered its 12th day, targeting Shiite rebels in Yemen. The coalition has asked Pakistan to contribute soldiers, raising the possibility of a ground offensive in the country. A look at the countries that are supplying weapons.



Source: AP
Graphic: Tribune News Service

three tanks deployed in Moalla by their opponents overnight, only to find new ones Monday. At least one residential building was in flames from the fighting. Coalition forces started an airdrop of weapons to Hadi's forces on Friday, but some mili-

tary officials say the weapons are falling into the wrong hands.

The number of casualties was not immediately known, with medical facilities in the city overwhelmed and volunteers coming under fire from rival groups.

Kenyan warplanes attack suspected Islamic militant positions



Airstrikes and other conventional military operations have hurt al-Shabab, but analysts say better intelligence is needed to thwart an extremist group that

has proven effective in infiltrating civilian populations and carrying out attacks on so-called "soft" targets in urban areas.

The extremist group said the Garissa attack was in reprisal for Kenya sending troops into Somalia in 2011 to kill its members who took part in cross-border raids and kidnappings.

Kenya's troops in Somalia are part of an African Union force and are also shoring up the beleaguered Somali government. Kenya has conducted airstrikes in Somalia before.

The four al-Shabab attackers who stormed the university were killed by Kenyan security forces, and their bullet-riddled bodies were displayed in Garissa. Five people have been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the attack, a Kenyan official said.

reopen embassies in the coming weeks but not necessarily before the summit.

"It's not a lot of time, let's put it that way," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told a briefing on Friday when asked whether an agreement on embassies was likely before the gathering in Panama City.

Asked Monday about the latest on the embassies, White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters that "when you have a country that has essentially been ostracized by the United States for five decades ... it's going to take a little bit of time to re-establish some trust."

"When you consider the 50-year history between our two countries, three months doesn't seem very long," Earnest said, referring to the December announcement.

The U.S. and Cuba have held three rounds of talks about restoring diplomatic relations. Cuba's main demand is to be removed from the terror list, a Cold War-era designation that isolates it from much of the world financial system because banks fear repercussions from doing business with designated countries. Even Cuba's Interests Section in Washington has lost its bank in the U.S., forcing it to deal in cash.

Good Housekeeping

By STACI GIORDULLO
ANGIE'S LIST

Buying a house is an emotional journey—from finding the perfect property to securing the ideal price. The last thing anyone wants to endure is a real estate closing that resembles a roller-coaster ride.

“The goal of a good settlement is where the buyers and sellers get to meet, sign papers, hand off keys and trade information about the neighborhood,” says Realtor Dianne Hansen of Fairfax, Va. “When done well, it’s a nice moment between buyer and seller.”

And who wouldn’t want that?

Realtors share their tips for a smooth closing:

1 Get preapproved for a loan

Working with a lender to secure financing ahead of time not only helps determine what you can afford, but it also helps unearth any speed bumps that might impact your chances of closing on a property.

“I’ve seen buyers go out looking, and the first day they fall in love with a home,” says Realtor Ed Huck of Ed Huck Team in Westlake, Ohio. “They need to make an offer, but they miss out because the home sells while they’re getting preapproved or they lose the home in a multiple-offer situation because the other buyer is already preapproved.”

Five tips for an easy home closing



Found your dream home? Make sure the closing goes as smoothly as possible.

THINKSTOCK

2 Listen to your lender

Buying a house involves a mountain of paperwork, so be prepared. And just when you think you’re done submitting the last forms, the bank will undoubtedly want

something more.

“Respond to lender requests promptly,” says Realtor Colleen Malone of Moxie Realty in Portland, Ore. “And by promptly, I mean within hours, not days. If the lender needs a pay stub or a tax statement—even if

you think you’ve already given it to them—just get it to them again ASAP.”

Huck agrees, and says because of today’s tight lending guidelines, lenders are asking for more documentation than ever before. “Many of our trans-

actions are not closing on time because underwriters, at the lender, are asking for updated documentation just days before the scheduled closing,” he says.

3 Ask questions and review documents

Don’t be afraid to ask questions of your Realtor, title company, attorney or lender, and be sure to read through the documentation detailing the sale.

As a buyer, you have a legal right to obtain the HUD-1 settlement statement (which outlines all of the costs for both the buyer and seller) at least 24 hours in advance of closing.

“Listen, ask questions, and ask again if you still have questions,” Hansen says. “Understand title insurance. It’s not

required, but should you have a title issue, the lawyer fees can be impressive.”

Before closing, a title professional will examine the history of the home’s ownership to resolve any issues, but problems may still arise (for instance if the previous owner failed to pay taxes or if there’s an outstanding judgment on the property). Title insurance will pay for your court costs if anyone challenges your title, and it will pay for your equity if you lose.

4 Double-check the property

Sellers should be proactive on any agreed-upon repairs, but as a buyer, try to schedule a walk-through of the property a few days before closing. That way, there’s still time to address any issues that aren’t resolved. It also won’t hurt to drive by the house on your way to sign the closing papers—just to make sure there hasn’t been a flood or fire.

“Determine if you want to pay for a survey,” Hansen suggests. “I recommend one, especially on single-family homes. If there’s a fence on your property, this is the way to find out about (property line) issues ahead of time, because after settlement it becomes your problem.”

5 Stay calm

Realtors agree: Be flexible, be responsive, and above all, remain calm.

“Your lender will ask you for all sorts of last-minute details—verified, of course,” Hansen says. “Even the most qualified of buyers have to meet audit standards. Don’t take it personally; sometimes things come up last minute. Stay calm, and keep your eye on the ball.”

THIS IS A HAMMER

Childproofing blinds

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: A friend told me that the cords on my apartment blinds weren’t safe, and that kids or my cat could get tangled up in them. I’m not sure what to do to make them safe—should I replace the blinds?—Val in Duluth, Georgia

A: Window blinds manufactured for sale in the U.S. are required to have a safety feature installed to prevent children or pets from getting tangled up in the pull cords. Older window blinds manufactured before 1991 may not have this feature.

The blinds’ manufacturer should include instructions for cord safety. If you can’t locate them, you can find general information at websites like the Window Covering Safety Council at windowcoverings.org.

Look on the pull cords of your window blinds for cord stops. These are small round plastic discs threaded through the cords. Here’s how to use them to make the pull cords safer, from the WCSC (www.windowcoverings.org/how-to-retrofit/):

1. Lower the blind to its proper closed length and tug the cords slightly to the right to lock them in position.

2. To install a new cord stop, pinch together a section of the pull cord (near the top of the cord) and slide the plastic disc over the pinched-together cord so that you create a loop threaded through the disc

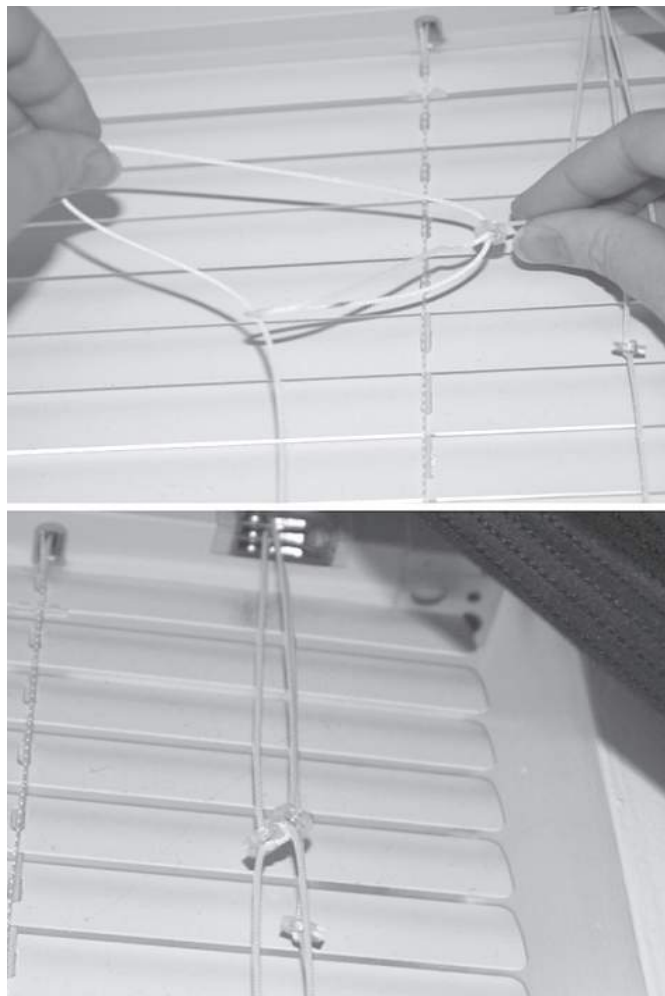
3. Keeping the loop large for now, bring the bottom part of the same pull cord through the loop and then tug it into a loose half-knot under the disc.

4. Adjust the disc until it is about 2 inches below the blinds’ head rail and tighten the knot. Repeat with the other cords.

5. The bottom of each cord shouldn’t hang past the bottom window sash when the blinds are closed. Shorten them by cutting each cord above the plastic tassel to a safer length, then re-threading the tassel onto the cord and securing with a knot tied on the end.

If you have young children or adventurous pets, consider replacing the blinds with safer cordless models as soon as possible.

TIP: A quick add to your ad-



(Top) Threading a cord stop through the pull cord, with the cord end looped through. (Bottom) Installed cord stops.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

vice on calibrating digital thermostats: Check the batteries. If they’re worn out, the thermostat behaves erratically.—

Denis in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Send your home tips and questions to ask@thisisahammer.com.

COMFORT FOOD

Mom’s Casserole

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

If you grew up in the 1950s and ‘60s, you probably remember your mother serving a variation of this casserole. Here is a healthier version updated for today.

■ 16 ounces extra-lean ground sirloin beef or turkey breast

■ 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat cream of chicken soup

■ 1 (16-ounce) can cut green beans, drained and rinsed

■ 3 cups (10-ounces) shredded loose-packed frozen potatoes

■ 3/4 cup (3-ounce) shredded reduced-fat Cheddar

cheese

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.

2. Press meat into an 8-by-8-inch baking dish sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray. Spread chicken soup evenly over meat. Layer green beans and potatoes evenly over soup. Evenly sprinkle Cheddar cheese over top. Cover and bake for 50 minutes.

3. Uncover and continue baking for 10 minutes. Place baking dish on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Divide into 6 servings.

* Each serving equals: 198 calories, 6g fat, 21g protein, 15g carb., 505mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1/2 Starch/Carb., 2 1/2 Meat, 1 Vegetable.

Life & Style

Fraternity announces 'legal action' against *Rolling Stone*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—A fraternity at the University of Virginia announced Monday that it will “pursue all available legal action” against *Rolling Stone*, saying a Columbia Journalism School review shows the magazine acted recklessly and defamed its members by publishing an article that falsely accused them of gang rape.

“The *Rolling Stone* article viewed by millions fueled a court of public opinion that ostracized Phi Kappa Psi members and led to vandalism of the fraternity house,” the fraternity’s statement said.

“Clearly our fraternity and its members have been defamed, but more importantly we fear this entire episode may prompt some victims to remain in the shadows, fearful to confront their attackers,” said Stephen Scipione, president of the the University of Virginia’s Phi Kappa Psi chapter. “If *Rolling Stone* wants to play a real role in addressing this problem, it’s time to get serious.”

Rolling Stone’s “shock narrative” about sex assaults at the University of Virginia was rife with bad journalism, and the magazine has nobody but its own staff to blame, Columbia Journal-

ism School Dean Steve Coll said Monday at a question and answer session about the review he led at the magazine’s request.

The magazine pledged to review its practices and removed “A Rape on Campus” from its website, but publisher Jann S. Wenner said he won’t fire anyone despite the blistering review. In a *New York Times* interview, Wenner described “Jackie,” whose claims provided the article’s narrative thread, as “a really expert fabulist storyteller” who manipulated the magazine’s journalism process.

“*Rolling Stone* magazine admits its staff engaged in reckless behavior while covering this story, yet the magazine refuses to take any action against those involved in reporting the story or address needed changes to its editorial process. The reporter in question not only failed to apologize to members of Phi Kappa Psi, but doesn’t even acknowledge the three witnesses she quoted in the article but never interviewed. This is a clear and sad indication that the magazine is not serious about its journalistic obligations,” the fraternity said.

Coll strongly disagreed “with any suggestion that this was



Jackie’s fault.”

“The editors made judgments about attribution, fact-checking and verification that greatly increased their risks of error but had little or nothing to do with protecting Jackie’s position,” the report found.

Jackie’s lawyer, Palma Pustilnik, told The Associated Press

on Monday that “we are not making any comment at all at this time.”

University President Teresa A. Sullivan said the article hurt efforts to fight sexual violence, tarred the school’s reputation, and falsely accused some students “of heinous, criminal acts and falsely depicted others as

indifferent to the suffering of their classmate.”

The story horrified readers, unleashed campus protests and sparked a national discussion about sex assaults. Charlottesville police launched a separate investigation, which they suspended two weeks ago for lack of evidence even while publicly

^{AP}
Columbia Journalism School Academic Dean Sheila Coronel, left, speaks while Columbia Journalism School Dean Steve Coll, listens during a news conference to discuss findings of a report conducted at the Columbia School of Journalism surrounding *Rolling Stone* magazine’s expose of what it called a culture of sex assaults at the University of Virginia, Monday, April 6, 2015, in New York. *Rolling Stone* has officially retracted the story.

appealing for Jackie to cooperate. Her lawyer declined to make her available to police or the team at Columbia.

The Columbia review was requested by *Rolling Stone* Managing Editor Will Dana, who apologized again Monday as he retracted the article. Author Sabrina Rubin Erdely also apologized, saying she would not repeat the same mistakes.

But Sheila Coronel, the journalism school’s dean of academic affairs, said “nothing ever disappears on the Internet.”

To rebuild trust, Coll said the magazine should prohibit pseudonyms, take care to share the details of allegations so that the accused can fully and fairly respond, and be transparent to readers about what the authors don’t know.



In Loving Memory of

† Francisco Pangelinan Agulto

“Lovingly known as Frank or Ko”
August 30th, 1949 – April 2nd, 2015



In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents:	Antonio Aguon Agulto & Ana Crisostomo Pangelinan Agulto
Maternal Grandparents:	Maria Cepeda Crisostomo Pangelinan & Jose Rosario Pangelinan
Paternal Grandparents:	Ana Fujihira Aguon Agulto & Nicolas Cruz Agulto
Brother:	Miguel Pangelinan Agulto
Son In-Law:	Juan San Nicolas Borja
Parents In-Law:	Jesus Aguon Aldan & Rosa Ilo Taitano Aldan
Brothers In-Law:	Juan T. Aldan, David T. Aldan, Cornelio T. Castro, & Jesus T. Aldan
Sisters In-Law:	Maria I. Taitano, Maria N. Aldan, & Fermina C. Palacios

His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:

Wife:	Escolastica Taitano Aldan Agulto
Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren:	Rosa S. Virrey / Anecio Mitchuro - Billy / Charlotte, Anthony / Kaihani (Hali'ani), Noel Newly A. / Maria A. Agulto - Pauleus / Rheena (Avery Rose, Avonie Renay), Naython Newly, Franklin Anthony, Courtney Renay / Richard (Conner Vincent Rheede), Monique Nicole (Elijah) Gloria A. / Kasimiro Cabrera - Maylynn Rubygene, Melton CJ Carla A. Borja - Myra Joy, John Jr., Ryan Jesse, Edward Jack, Escolynn Janelle, Travis Jeremy Diana A. / Juan P. Lairopi - Jean Dian, John David GinaLynn A. Agulto - Jake Peter / Pamela (Cathalea, Soriya) Clarissa A. Agulto / Jason Mad - Jack David, Johnalyn Danaris, Jason Damian, Jarissa Jessica Dee, Justin Darnel, Joshua Daniel Sonia A. / Raymond C. Deleon Guerrero - Rayna Frances, Raymond John, Riley Franco, Raylin Margaret Arl I. Norita Antonio Diego & Josephine B. Agulto & Children Dolores A. Agulto & Children

Reared Son: Arl I. Norita
Brother & Spouse: Antonio Diego & Josephine B. Agulto & Children
Sister In-Law: Dolores A. Agulto & Children

He is additionally survived by Sisters, Brothers, & Spouses In-Laws:

† Maria I. Taitano & Children	Jose T. / Margarita S. Castro & Children	Juliana A. / Juan S. Cabrera & Children
Joaquina V. Castro & Children	Teresita B. Aldan & Children	Vicente T. / Dolores M. Aldan & Children
Francisco S. / Chao Palacios & Children	† David T. / † Maria N. Aldan & Children	Augustine T. / Olivia B. Aldan & Children

He will also be missed by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Nieces, Nephews, and Cousins.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at San Vicente Parish at 6:00 pm. On Friday, April 10th, 2015, our beloved † Francisco will leave the Nuestra Señora Dela Paz at 7:30 am and will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From Escolastica Taitano Aldan Agulto, Children & Family

YouTube star Michelle Phan branches out with ICON network

NEW YORK (AP)—Even First Lady Michelle Obama has asked YouTube star Michelle Phan for beauty advice.

“She asked me what kind of powder I liked,” Phan recalled in a recent interview. She traveled to Tokyo last month with Mrs. Obama as part of her “Let Girls Learn” campaign, which encourages education around the world.

Phan, 27, herself has made a career out of sharing her beauty tips. She began by posting makeup tutorials on YouTube in 2007, just two years after the video site was founded, and today has 7.5 million subscribers. She has a subscription makeup business called Ipsy (“with more than 100 employees and we’re going to be making over \$100 million this year,” says Phan). Now, she’s launching her own online network of original content called ICON. It features other female Web personalities hand-picked by Phan, who share tips on everything from fashion and beauty to DIY projects.

ICON, available on YouTube, its own app and with plans for Roku and other streaming platforms, is now available in the U.S. and United Kingdom with plans to expand to Asia in the next few months.

“We’re platform agnostic,” said Phan. “We’ll go wherever our audience is.”

Phan recently chatted with The Associated Press about ICON, keeping up with technology and the pressures to post. Answers have been edited for length.

Associated Press: Some people are intimidated by all the different apps and social media sites like Facebook and SnapChat out there. Are you? Or do you see it as opportunity?

Michelle Phan: I celebrate newness! It’s incredible what the Internet has done to widen the market space not only in production but entertainment, education and media. I really believe in the digital revolution. The industrial revolution jumpstarted our economy. Now we’re entering into the digital revolution where this will really change our economy.

AP: Your YouTube popularity has given you a following, and I’m sure that means possible dollar signs to businesses and other brands. Has it been difficult deciding what the right fit is when choosing partnerships?

Phan: I’ve had times where I’ve partnered with someone who wasn’t right for me at the time. It all comes with experience. Failure is part of the process.

AP: You’ve managed to stand out among the millions who post videos online or are trying to build a following. Not everyone would share their secret to success. Why are you giving others a platform on ICON?

Phan: The Internet has widened the marketplace so much that you can really own a market that’s niche. I have a niche market, and I have millions of followers who subscribe to my channel or who buy my prod-

ucts. I really believe there’s no competition online because you can really own a market that’s very specific to you.

AP: What’s the one biggest mistake made by people who want to become an internet personality?

Phan: The first mistake is they want to do it for money. People forget the Internet is open 24/7. There’s a lot of pressure to maintain and upload on a constant basis so if you’re not passionate you’re going to burn out really fast.

AP: Have you ever been burned out?

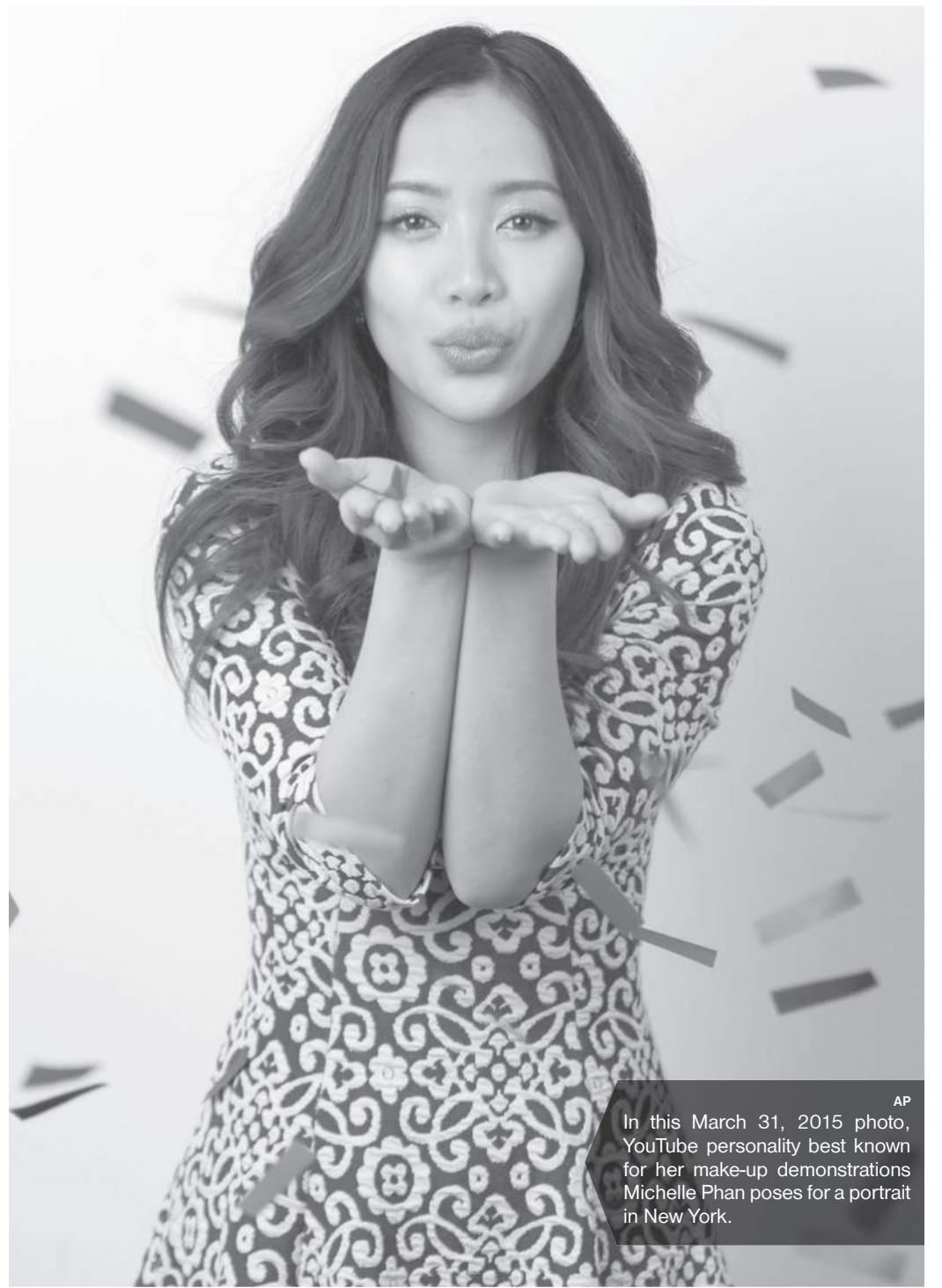
Phan: Yeah, but that was mostly because I was stretched really thin. A beauty company wanted me to make 10 videos and a jewelry company wanted me to make videos. Everyone wanted a video from me. People oftentimes see me as talent which is fine but what I’m very good at is strategy and marketing.

AP: Have you become careful about what you say you like because it becomes an endorsement when you’re a public figure?

Phan: No, I’m very authentic with what I like. I keep it real with what I’m using and where I’m buying it from.

AP: Would you ever charge to view your content?

Phan: It depends. If it’s content people are already watching for free, no. We have to understand that we’re in a generation where people either want things for free, or they’ll watch with ads or to pay a very low cost.



AP
In this March 31, 2015 photo, YouTube personality best known for her make-up demonstrations Michelle Phan poses for a portrait in New York.

Pesky spring guest buzzes Obama's Easter egg roll

WASHINGTON (AP)—A flying, buzzing harbinger of spring briefly upstaged President Barack Obama at the annual White House Easter egg roll Monday.

Squeals and shrieks from a

clump of agitated children interrupted Obama’s reading of his childhood favorite, Maurice Sendak’s *Where the Wild Things Are*, at the storytime stage, one of several outdoor stations at an event that has grown into far

more than colored eggs.

Obama looked up to see what the trouble was.

“Oh no, it’s a bee!” he said, laughing, then quickly tried to reassure the kids. “That’s OK guys, bees are good. They

won’t land on you. They won’t sting you.”

In fact, helping honeybees and other beleaguered pollinators survive is a goal of Obama’s administration. Elsewhere at the event, children were given donated Burpee garden seeds to encourage them to plant bee-friendly habitats.

But the kids ducking and dodging in their hay-bale seats had no interest in being part of this bee’s habitat. “Scary!” one of them shouted.

Obama—who had just led the children through imitations of the roaring, teeth-gnashing and eye-rolling of the storybook’s monsters, finally got them settled down after a reminder that, “You’re not supposed to be scared of bees when you’re Wild Things.”

Officials said more than 35,000 people took part in the 137th egg roll, an event that began when President Rutherford B. Hayes opened the White House grounds to local children for egg rolling in 1878.

Toddler boys in straw fedoras and little girls in spring dresses with bright sashes romped on the lawn. One girl, in pants,

turned cartwheels while waiting her turn to roll a wooden egg.

Eleven-year-old Madison Knight, decked out in sequined rabbit ears, said she’d never heard of egg rolling before—only egg hunting—but was game to try the White House tradition.

Madison and her 9-year-old friend Kyla Newkirk, both from Durham, North Carolina, agreed that wasn’t the most exciting part of the day, however. Their anticipated highlight? “Seeing the president!” Madison said, as she waited for Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and a giant Easter Bunny to emerge on the South Portico to officially start the day.

The egg roll tradition involves children lining up to use wooden spoons to push the brightly painted eggs a short distance across the grass, in a loosely defined race to the finish line. It’s harder than it sounds—especially for toddlers—and strategies range from nudging, poking and sideswiping the eggs to a scooping motion that sometimes sends them flying in unexpected directions.

The Obamas stopped by to

give encouragement. Michelle Obama leaned over to gently help one youngster get his egg moving again in mid-race. Obama offered high-fives, handshakes and hugs to kids and their parents. “Good job, guys,” he said.

The Obamas used the event to tout the fifth anniversary of the first lady’s campaign to get kids to eat well and exercise. The girl group Fifth Harmony appeared with a not-so-healthy-looking cake to sing “Happy Birthday” to the “Let’s Move!” effort.

This year, the (hash)GimmeFive theme was added, encouraging children to come up with five ways live healthier lives and to share them on social media.

Making his rounds, Obama joined kids shooting baskets with Washington Wizards players and other athletes, missing his first shot but sinking the second.

Then he took on tennis star Caroline Wozniacki in a doubles game with kids on a mini-court. Obama whooped when he scored against the Danish pro.

“Got to work on those volleys,” he teased, adding, “I’m a competitor.”

Then she served, and the president missed the return.



AP
President Barack Obama begins to laugh as he reads *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, during the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, April 6, 2015.

**Gervais**

Netflix acquires Ricky Gervais movie for 2016

NEW YORK (AP)—Netflix has acquired a feature film written and directed by Ricky Gervais to debut next year, adding to the streaming service's growing roster of original films.

The deal was announced Monday. In the satirical comedy, titled "Special Correspondents," Eric Bana plays a struggling radio journalist who files fake war reports

from New York. Gervais, the creator of "The Office," also co-stars.

Ted Sarandos, chief content officer for Netflix, called the film "the kind of great grown-

up comedy that studios rarely make anymore."

Gervais, in a statement, called Sarandos "the new Godfather of entertainment" and said "he made me an offer

I couldn't refuse."

Netflix also has made deals to premiere films from Adam Sandler and documentaries produced by Leonardo DiCaprio.

ABC's Sawyer to interview Bruce Jenner

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC says that Diane Sawyer will conduct a two-hour interview with Bruce Jenner that will air on Friday, April 24.

ABC says the former Olympic champion and patriarch of the Kardashian television clan

will give a "far-ranging interview." Jenner has not spoken publicly about it but he has been looking more feminine in appearance, and those in his inner circles have not chal-

**Jenner**

lenged speculation that he is preparing to live as a woman.

There has been talk about a reality show that discusses Jenner's transition, but the E! Entertain-

ment network that carries Kardashian programming has not commented about it. The Sawyer interview has been rumored for several weeks, but ABC didn't talk about it until Monday.

The interview will air at 9 p.m. on April 24.

NY village wants to give its Lucille Ball statue a makeover

CELORON, N.Y. (AP)—They may have loved "I Love Lucy" but many in Lucille Ball's western New York hometown have no affection for her life-size statue in a local park.

Since the bronze sculpture was unveiled in 2009 in Lucille Ball Memorial Park in the village of Celoron, the statue has been blasted by critics who say it bears little or no likeness to the popular 1950s sitcom actress and comedian.

Village officials told The Post-Journal of Jamestown (<http://bit.ly/1C6HeaH>) that they've talked to the sculptor about making changes to the statue's face, but the artist wants as much as \$10,000 to alter his artwork. Other sculptors have quoted a price tag of about \$5,000.

"We'd like to work with the



In an August 2012 photo, a bronze sculpture of Lucille Ball is displayed in Lucille Ball Memorial Park in the village of Celoron, N.Y., in her hometown.

original sculptor, and wish he would stand behind his work enough to step up and fix it for free," Celoron Mayor Scott

Schreengost told the newspaper.

He said no taxpayer funds will be used for the statue project. The village has started a

fundraising effort to pay for the sculpture's makeover.

A statue replacement campaign has been launched on Facebook with the name, "We Love Lucy! Get Rid of this Statue."

The statue was commissioned privately by a couple who hired a sculptor from neighboring Jamestown, 60 miles south of Buffalo. The 400-pound statue was installed in August 2009 in a park Celoron, where Ball spent much of her youth.

The statue depicts Ball with her signature swept-up hairdo, but the sculpture's face has been described by some online critics as "a nightmare" that resembles a drunken zombie. The sculpture shows Ball holding a spoon and a bottle of Vitameatavegamin, a fictional elixir featured in one of her most famous episodes.

'Dancing With the Stars' to hit the road this summer

NEW YORK (AP)—"Dancing With the Stars" fans will have an opportunity to see some of the pros freestyle, jive and pasodoble as the show hits the road again this summer.

The long-running ABC competition show, which pairs celebrities with professional dancers, will tour in more than 40 cities starting June 13 in Atlan-

tic City, New Jersey. "Dancing With the Stars: Live!" will run through Aug. 11, hosted by all-stars season champion Melissa Rycroft. Stops on the tour will include Toledo, Ohio; El Paso, Texas; and Las Vegas.

"Every time I think I'll never do this again they suck me back in!" joked Rycroft, who has competed twice on the show.

The TV personality said she's excited to travel by bus and "live like rock stars" with her husband and two children.

Pro dancers taking part in the tour include Valentin Chmerkovskiy, Witney Carson and Peta Murgatroyd. Performances will feature both new choreography and popular numbers from the show.

"The opportunity to go out on the road theater to theater and have the privilege to perform in front of our fans, getting to meet them and interact with them is an opportunity I couldn't pass up," Chmerkovskiy said.

"Dancing With the Stars" is now airing its 10th-anniversary season on Monday nights (8 p.m. EDT).

Father's noisy lovemaking is pain to daughter's ears

DEAR ABBY: I'm the mother of an 18-year-old daughter. Her dad and I are divorced and she lives with him. We were married 20 years and I know he's a good parent, except for one thing. My daughter has told me her father and his partner sometimes engage in very loud lovemaking when she's in her room, and it embarrasses her. She's shy to begin with, so she hasn't said anything to him.

I feel angry and frustrated because I don't know if I should say something to him about it. I have suggested she put on some loud music or use headphones if she can't bring this up with him. I think she wants me to intercede, but I don't feel it's my business to do so. Can these adults be that clueless? Please help.

CAROL ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR CAROL: Yes, adults can be that "clueless." Her father and his partner may not realize how much noise they make. Headphones and turning on loud music are good suggestions. But remember that clear communication is important in relationships both personal and professional.

At 18, your daughter is old enough to start speaking up for herself. Encourage her to talk about this problem privately with her father. But if she can't, then you should handle this for her.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband had an affair 18 years ago. We worked through it and are doing well in our marriage.

My question concerns my mother-in-law and sister-in-law, both

of whom continue to remain in contact with the "other woman." They still worship at the same church, bought her baby gifts, etc. I have mentioned how it hurts me that they are Facebook friends with her, but it has fallen on deaf ears. I know they have known her longer than me, but I am FAMILY.

Abby, I would like to know if I am crazy for letting this bother me. Should I let it go? I have forgiven my husband, but what they are doing makes it hard for me at times. What should I do?

MY HEART HURTS

DEAR HEART HURTS: By now you should have realized that you can't control your husband's mother or sister. That they chose to continue to maintain their relationship with this woman in spite of the fact that she nearly wrecked your marriage is regrettable.

But all this happened 18 years ago, and your marriage survived it. If you can let this go, I think you should. A wise person once said that we can be as happy as we choose to be. Lessen your emotional dependence on your in-laws, and I predict you will be happier.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I find it difficult to lie. This trait suits me well except in one area. When friends or family share information about being ill, experiencing a death or any sort of tragedy, almost everyone else responds with, "You're in my prayers."

I am an atheist and do not claim I will pray for those individuals

Dermatologist Fredric Brandt found dead at Miami home

MIAMI (AP)—Pioneering dermatologist Dr. Fredric Brandt, an early proponent of Botox who was also an author, radio host and frequent television talk show guest, has died. He was 65.

Miami police spokeswoman Frederica Burden said Monday officers found Brandt's body at his home in the Coconut Grove section of Miami about 9:15 a.m. Sunday after a friend contacted them. Burden said Brandt apparently hanged himself and that foul play is not suspected. An autopsy is planned, however.

Brandt had offices in Coral Gables and New York and famous patients including singer Madonna. According to his publicists, he launched his Dr. Brandt Skin Care line in 2001 and wrote two successful skin care books.

For four years he hosted the "Ask Dr. Brandt" show on SiriusXM radio, where his guests included celebrities such as Gwyneth Paltrow and Kelly Ripa.

Brandt's longtime publicist, Jacquie Tractenberg, said he had been suffering from depression. Recently, she said, he had been upset by a thinly veiled portrayal of him by actor Martin Short on the Netflix show, "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt."

"It definitely bothered him. It was a very mean portrayal,"

she said, but she added: "He didn't kill himself because of that one particular show."

Fredric Brandt was born in 1949 in Newark, New Jersey, graduating from Rutgers University and earning his medical degree from Drexel University Medical School, according to an official biography. During residencies at New York University and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he looked into several specialties including oncology and cardiology but eventually decided

to focus on dermatology.

He opened his Miami dermatology practice in 1982 and developed an expertise in injectable substances, including Botox. Much of his work involved running clinical trials for many other dermatology treatments. Brandt opened his New York practice in 1998 and divided time between the two cities.

Sarah Brown, beauty director at Vogue magazine, said in the official biography that Brandt was one of the nation's leading cosmetic dermatologists who enjoyed transforming the way people looked and felt about themselves.

"He understood the powerful role his work could play in enhancing a person's self-confidence, and I think he took great pleasure in that gift," she said.

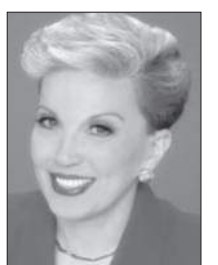
**Brandt**

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



because that would be lying. So what is the proper response when prayer is off the table?

TEXAS READER

DEAR READER: A proper response would be, "I'm sorry for what you're going through," "I'll send positive thoughts for So-and-So's recovery," or, "How sad. I'm sorry to hear it."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

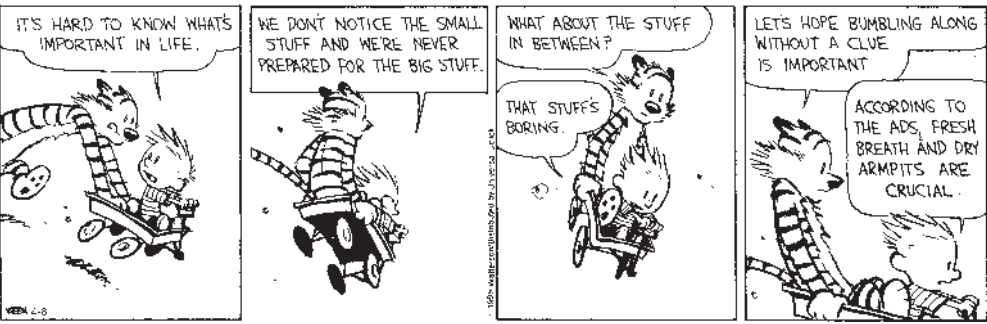
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

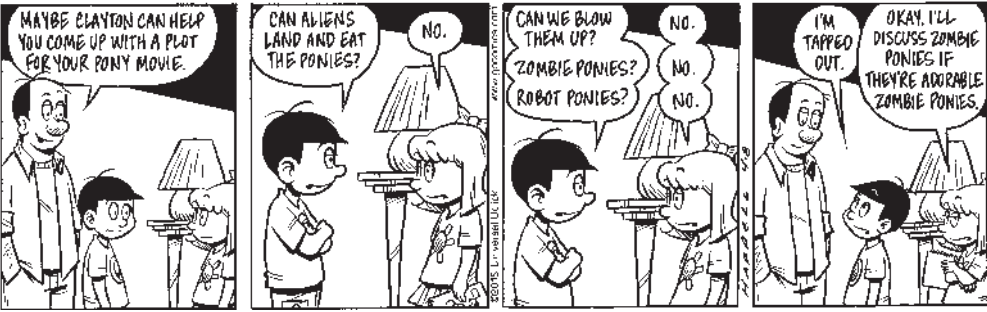
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

4 Harvest

8 "The Amazing —"

12 Clumsy sort

13 Beige

14 Vivacity

15 "CSI" evidence

16 Claim

18 Match

20 Attempt

21 Church service

24 Famous

28 Count

32 Unclothed

33 Before

34 Berate

36 Zero

37 "Zounds!"

39 Pretend to be

41 Decorator's theme

43 Ice cream holder

44 Jungfrau, for one

46 Dutch cheese

50 Specify as a condition

DOWN

55 Rep. or Dem.

56 Aching

57 Bread spread

58 Choose

59 Sport

60 Hammer-head part

61 Ultra-modernist

1 Last few notes

2 Hunger symptom

3 Somewhere out there

4 Undoes an amend-ment

5 Green, in a sense

6 Esses' precursors

7 Short shot

8 Trust

9 Carte lead-in

10 Tabby

11 Chemical suffix

17 Coffee shop

19 Ostrich's kin

22 Anatomical pouches

23 Unemotional

25 Alba-core, e.g.

26 Tend texts

27 Drop a line?

28 Abound

29 Best Picture winner in 2013

30 Tempo

31 Ticklish Muppet

35 Castle's jail cell

38 Nappy

40 Writer

42 Winter ailment

45 Sit down heavily

47 "Once — a time"

48 Nitwit

49 Choir member

50 Away from NNE

51 Pirouette pivot

52 Savings-plan acronym

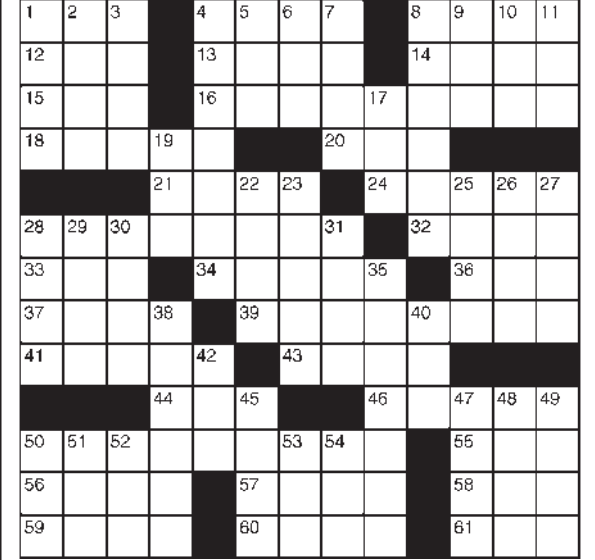
53 Hearty quaff

54 Place-kicker's prop

Solution time: 23 mins.

W	A	I	-	W	H	A	-	S	L	Y
A	S	I	A	A	U	D	-	P	E	A
S	P	I	D	E	R	M	A	N	I	A
B	A	S	E	D	-	S	O	L	O	-
A	L	P	S	-	O	U	T	R	I	G
L	E	I	-	A	R	K	I	N	-	Y
D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	-	T	R
E	Y	A	S	-	C	I	A	L	S	-
M	O	R	E	S	-	P	I	E	T	-
A	V	A	-	S	P	I	N	A	L	T
E	L	K	-	S	Y	S	T	-	D	E

Yesterday's answer 4-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Taylor Kitsch, 34; Patricia Arquette, 47; Robin Wright, 49; John Schneider, 55.

Happy Birthday: Do your own thing. Make every moment count. There is no time to waste and plenty you can accomplish if you are persistent. Refuse to let emotional issues stand between you and reaching your goals. Make choices that will lead to greater happiness. Don't let what others do or say disrupt your plans or cost you financially. Economic strategy is a must. Your numbers are 5, 12, 16, 21, 25, 34, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A joint venture will turn in your favor. Trust in your instincts to make a suitable choice regarding partnerships and personal changes. Don't be daunted by opposition. Do your own thing and success will follow. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on obtaining information, not dishing it out. Less will be more appropriate, no matter what you are doing. Avoid a mishap by being precise and honest about your feelings and intentions. Simplicity and moderation will work best. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can excel if you offer help to individuals who have something you want in return. Use your intelligence coupled with your persuasive skills to take control of any situation you face. Expand your interests or plan to make a move. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't act on hearsay. Put your time and effort into developing your talents, interests and

networking skills. Separate yourself from the competition and present a unique version of what you have to offer. Someone from your past will help you. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Explore new avenues of interest. Travel, communication and learning will lead to new friendships and opportunities. Do your due diligence before you invest in someone else's ideas. You will gain more if you develop and follow through with your own plans. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Concentrate on home, family and personal investments. You can make gains if you are specific about what you put your money into. Attend a seminar that will raise your investment savvy. Romance and self-improvement projects look promising. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Find a way to improve your relationships with people who have something to offer in return. Altering the way you do things, where you live or whom you associate with will make a difference when you promote your ideas and services. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ease into the changes going on around you. Don't let anger take over when you should be looking for a way to adapt to whatever situations you face. Stick to simple, effective means and methods, and you will gain ground. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Turn your ideas into cash. Start a small home-based business that will bring in extra income. You can improve your standard

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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of living if you make a move or renovate to suit your growing interests and skills. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Observe what others do and say. Keep your distance from gossip and indecisive individuals. You need to build confidence in what you have to offer. Go it alone if that's what it takes to control the outcome of a situation you face. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make professional moves or take on more responsibilities. Develop an idea or service you have to offer. Focus on bringing in money, not on dispersing it. A partnership or someone from your past can help you advance. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let anyone take advantage of your desire to please. Don't wait for opportunities to come to you. Make a point to go after what you want. Love is in the stars, and putting time aside for someone special will pay off. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are curious and adventuresome. You are outgoing and responsive. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	6	4	5	7	1	9	2	8
8	5	1	2	9	4	3	6	7
7	9	2	6	3	8	4	5	1
9	2	8	4	6	3	7	1	5
1	4	6	9	5	7	8	3	2
5	3	7	1	8	2	6	9	4
4	7	5	3	2	9	1	8	6
2	8	3	7	1	6	5	4	9
6	1	9	8	4	5	2	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SMARTWATCHES Solution: 9 letters

O G N I T X E T S I R W C N C
I M O B I L E C I V E D O O O
D B L U E T O O T H T T M I M
U A S R O T I N O M I M P T P
A T E N R E T N I F U I A A U
I T A L E R T S I N M C N L T
D E R R I A P C I S E E I U E
E R C A P F A C E I L L O C R
M Y H D A T A E M A I L N L I
L C E I I T R A C K E R A A Z
A N C O I E Z I M O T S U C E
I Y N O M I C R O P H O N E D
C S N A T O U C H S C R E E N
O S G E S R O S N E S W E N A
S T R O P S K C O T S P P A B

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Yesterday's Answer: Composer

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 can be purchased or in at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Kemp has 3 RBIs in Padres opening day 6-3 loss to Dodgers



LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jimmy

Rollins hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the eighth inning, rallying the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 6-3 victory over the San Diego Padres in the season opener Monday.

Rollins took a curtain call for his drive off Shawn Kelley (0-1). Rollins and Howie Kendrick joined the team in the offseason to improve the Dodgers' infield defense, but their offensive prowess delivered the victory.

Kendrick's RBI double with two outs in the seventh tied it at 3. Rollins went 2 for 4.

Clayton Kershaw, the reigning National League Most Valuable Player and Cy Young Award winner, struck out nine, but the team with MLB's highest payroll of \$270 million trailed twice before Kendrick and Rollins baled them out.

Kershaw gave up three runs and six hits in six innings. Joel Peralta (1-0) got the victory and Chris Hatcher earned his first save.

San Diego's Matt Kemp went 2 for 4 with three RBIs against his former team.

Athletics 8, Rangers 0

In Oakland, California, Sonny Gray carried a no-hit bid into the eighth inning before Ryan Rua broke it up with a leadoff single, and Oakland ended its record 10-game losing streak on opening day by beating Texas.

Trying to join Bob Feller (1940) as the only pitchers to throw a no-hitter on opening day, Gray (1-0) dazzled through seven innings and allowed just two baserunners before Rua's sharp grounder to right field.

Ben Zobrist backed Gray's eight-inning gem with a two-run homer in the first and also had a double in his Oakland debut. Stephen Vogt added a three-run shot.

New designated hitter Billy Butler hit an RBI double as the A's won their opener for the first time since beating Texas on April 5, 2004. Oakland's 10-game skid on opening day was the longest in MLB history.

Evan Scribner worked a perfect ninth to finish the one-hitter.

Yovani Gallardo (0-1) was chased after four innings in a forgettable Rangers debut.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Madison Bumgarner pitched seven strong innings as San Francisco opened defense of its third World Series title in five years with a win over Arizona.

Bumgarner (1-0) was the World Series Most Valuable Player last year and was sharp to start the 2015 season, allowing a run on six hits.

The Giants lost power-hitting Pablo Sandoval during the offseason and were without injured right fielder Hunter Pence, but made up for it by stringing together 10 hits in four-plus innings against Josh Collmenter (0-2).



San Diego Padres' Matt Kemp, right, hits an RBI double while Los Angeles Dodgers catcher A.J. Ellis, left, and home plate umpire Brian Gorman watch during the fifth inning of an opening day baseball game, Monday, April 6, 2015, in Los Angeles. AP

Angel Pagan had a pair of run-scoring singles and Brandon Crawford hit a two-run double for the Giants.

Diamondbacks pinch-hitter Jake Lamb hit a three-run double off Sergio Romo in the eighth, but Jeremy Affeldt stranded two runners to end the inning. Santiago Casilla worked a perfect ninth for the save.

Mariners 4, Angels 1

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez struck out 10 and allowed only two hits over seven innings, and Seth Smith had three extra-base hits and two RBIs in his Seattle debut against Los Angeles.

Hernandez (1-0) improved to 6-0 in opening-day starts, only two of them at home. He lifted the Mariners to their ninth straight win on opening day.

Mike Trout homered in the first inning and Erick Aybar singled leading off the fifth. That was all the Angels could do against Hernandez.

Acquired in an offseason trade with San Diego, Smith doubled twice and lined a two-out RBI triple. All three hits came off Jered Weaver (0-1).

Dustin Ackley added a solo home run and Robinson Cano had an RBI single. Carson Smith struck out Trout with two runners on to end the eighth, and Fernando Rodney closed for a save.

Red Sox 8, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Boston newcomer Hanley Ramirez and Dustin Pedroia each hit two home runs, Clay Buchholz threw three-hit ball over seven innings and the Red Sox beat Philadelphia in an interleague opener.

Buchholz (1-0) struck out nine and pitched like the player who went 12-1 in 2013.

Ramirez made quite an impression in his first game since the free agent signed an \$88 million, four-

year contract. He hit a solo homer in the fifth and a grand slam off Jake Diekmann in the ninth.

Cole Hamels (0-1) gave up five hits in five innings, striking out six. He allowed four homers for the second time in his career.

Mookie Betts also homered for Boston.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 1

In New York, Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run homer off Masahiro Tanaka, and Toronto beat New York in Alex Rodriguez's return to MLB.

Without retired Derek Jeter in the lineup, an opening-day crowd at Yankee Stadium reserved its biggest cheers for Rodriguez in his first game back from a year-long drug suspension. Batting seventh, his lowest spot in a regular-season game since 1996, he singled, walked and lined out.

Drew Hutchison, at 24 the youngest opening-day starter in Blue Jays history, held the Yankees hitless until Brian McCann singled with two outs in the fourth.

Hutchison (1-0) allowed three hits, including Brett Gardner's homer.

Ex-Yankee Russell Martin hit a two-run single in a five-run third against Tanaka (0-1). Devon Travis homered later for his first career hit.

Mets 3, Nationals 1

In Washington, Max Scherzer took a no-hitter into the sixth inning of his Washington debut but was unable to overcome two costly errors by shortstop Ian Desmond that aided New York.

Bartolo Colon pitched six clean innings for the Mets, giving up only Bryce Harper's third opening-day homer. Lucas Duda hit a two-run single with two outs in the sixth, putting New York ahead with its first hit

of the year.

At 41, Colon (1-0) was the oldest opening-day starter in Mets history—and in the majors since 2006. He struck out eight and allowed only three hits.

Scherzer (0-1), making the first start of his \$210 million contract, retired 17 in a row during one stretch and gave up four hits in 7 2-3 innings. All three runs off him were unearned.

Four relievers followed Colon, with 37-year-old Buddy Carlyle getting two outs for his first career save. New York closer Jenrry Mejia was unavailable due to a tight elbow.

Tigers 4, Twins 0

In Detroit, David Price left no doubt about his worthiness as Detroit's opening day starter, coming within one out of a shutout against Minnesota.

Price (1-0) retired his first 13 batters and allowed five hits before being pulled with two on in the ninth. Joe Nathan struck out Torii Hunter for the save.

The Twins lost in their first game under new manager Paul Molitor.

J.D. Martinez and Alex Avila homered off Phil Hughes (0-1), and Yoenis Cespedes tripled and scored in his Detroit debut. Cespedes also reached above the wall in left to catch Kurt Suzuki's drive in the third.

Rockies 10, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Kyle Kendrick pitched seven sharp innings and also got two hits as Colorado trounced Milwaukee.

Corey Dickerson and Nolan Arenado each homered and drove in four runs. Troy Tulowitzki doubled twice, singled and scored three times. There were eight extra-base hits in the game, all by the Rockies.

Kendrick (1-0), who left Philadelphia after last season,

excelled in his first opening day start. He gave up seven singles, walked none and struck out six.

After former commissioner Bud Selig lobbied in the ceremonial first ball, the Rockies teed off against Kyle Lohse (0-1).

With the Brewers trailing 1-0, slugger Ryan Braun left with a strain on his right side.

Orioles 6, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Chris Tillman pitched into the seventh inning and Baltimore hit three homers while spoiling Tampa Bay's debut under rookie manager Kevin Cash.

Tillman (1-0) allowed one run and four hits in 6 2-3 innings. He was working on a shutout in his second career opening day start before Evan Longoria led off the seventh with a home run.

Alejandro De Aza, Steve Pearce and Ryan Flaherty connected for the defending American League East division champions, and Travis Snider had three hits in his Baltimore debut.

Snider also drove in two runs and threw a runner out at the plate from right field.

Chris Archer (0-1) gave up four runs and six hits over 5 2-3 innings.

Royals 10, White Sox 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Yordano Ventura pitched six solid innings before leaving with a thumb cramp, and Alex Rios hit a three-run homer in his Kansas City debut against Chicago.

Ventura (1-0) was replaced by Kelvin Herrera in the seventh after crumpling to the ground following a strike to Adam LaRoche. Ventura will be evaluated later this week, but Royals trainers said it is not believed to be serious.

Rios, who had three hits, homered in a five-run seventh with Kendrys Morales and Alex

Gordon aboard. Gordon stroked a two-run single in the inning.

Jose Abreu homered Chicago. Jeff Samardzija (0-1) yielded five runs and six hits in six-plus innings in his White Sox debut.

Braves 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, two Atlanta relievers combined to escape a bases-loaded, none-out jam in the seventh inning, and new closer Jason Grilli pitched a perfect ninth to help the Braves beat Miami.

Braves newcomer Nick Markakis drove in both of their runs. Julio Teheran (1-0) allowed eight hits but only one run in six-plus innings.

Henderson Alvarez (0-1) gave up two runs in seven innings and scored Miami's only run.

Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton went 1 for 4 and made a baserunning mistake. The game was Stanton's first since he signed a record \$325 million, 13-year contract.

Reds 5, Pirates 2

In Cincinnati, Todd Frazier hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning to rally Cincinnati past Pittsburgh.

Billy Hamilton and Joey Votto singled before Frazier connected against Tony Watson (0-1), ending a 2-all tie.

Johnny Cueto, the Reds' 20-game winner in the final year of a contract, opened his uncertain season with another dominating performance against the Pirates. He fanned 10 batters in seven innings before turning a 2-0 lead over to a bullpen that was a big problem last season.

Andrew McCutchen tied it with a two-run shot off newcomer Kevin Gregg.

Jumbo Diaz (1-0) got the final out in the eighth.

Jay Bruce hit a solo homer, and Francisco Liriano barked home a run in his first game since Pittsburgh gave him the biggest free-agent contract in franchise history — three years, \$39 million. Liriano allowed two hits in seven innings.

Astros 2, Indians 0

In Houston, Dallas Keuchel and two relievers combined on a three-hitter, and Houston beat Cleveland after being held hitless by American League Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber for nearly six innings.

George Springer and Jake Marisnick each drove in a run for the Astros. Making his first opening-day start, Keuchel (1-0) allowed three hits in seven innings.

Tony Sipp threw a perfect eighth and new closer Luke Gregerson worked a 1-2-3 ninth for the save.

Kluber (0-1) didn't allow a hit until Jose Altuve's soft single with two outs in the sixth. Altuve stole second and scored on a single by Springer.

Kluber yielded three hits and two runs with seven strikeouts in 7 1-3 innings a day after agreeing to a five-year, \$38.5 million contract.

Brook Lopez scores 32, Nets beat short-handed Blazers



NEW YORK (AP)—Brook Lopez doesn't speak to his twin brother on the court. Hadn't spoken to him at all since a late-night McDonald's run the night before.

His play did all the talking Monday.

He dominated Robin Lopez and the short-handed Portland frontcourt with 32 points and nine rebounds, and the Brooklyn Nets beat the Trail Blazers 106-96 in the only game on the NBA schedule.

Robin Lopez joked before the game that his brother was a "crappy center."

"Well, it might have been a fluke," Brook Lopez said.

No way. The two-time Eastern Conference player of the week is doing it regularly now that he's back fully healthy again.

"He's a stubborn guy," Robin Lopez said. "No matter what people say about him, no matter what happens, he's just going to stick with what he knows how to do. That's what he's been doing."

The Trail Blazers left LaMarcus Aldridge and others home for the makeup of a game that was postponed by weather on Jan. 26 and couldn't stop Brook Lopez, who shot 15 for 25 from the field.

Deron Williams added 24 points and 10 assists for the Nets, who strengthened their hold on seventh place in the



AP
Brooklyn Nets center Brook Lopez (11) takes aim for the basket around his twin brother, Portland Trail Blazers center Robin Lopez (42) in the second half of an NBA basketball game on Monday, April 6, 2015, in New York.

Eastern Conference by winning for the ninth time in 11 games. Thaddeus Young scored 20 points as Brooklyn moved a game ahead of eighth-place Boston and two up on ninth-place Indiana and Miami.

"We're trying to close the door on those other teams and

the only way you can do that is by winning," Nets coach Lionel Hollins said.

Damian Lillard scored 36 points for the Trail Blazers, who had won two in a row. Meyers Leonard had 17 points and 15 rebounds, while Robin Lopez had just eight points and seven

boards.

Besides Aldridge, Portland was without forward Nicolas Batum and backup center Chris Kaman. With a five-hour flight Sunday just to turn around and fly back after the game Monday, Blazers coach Terry Stotts opted to let the players stay behind and

rest some injuries before they host Minnesota on Wednesday.

Lillard made six 3-pointers but had only two assists.

"I didn't put any pressure on myself but I knew that without LA, Nico and Kaman, I would have to probably raise the level of my play and try to do a little

bit more," he said.

The Blazers cut a 22-point deficit to six in the fourth quarter before the Nets pulled away again. Portland, guaranteed a top-four seed as the Northwest Division champion, isn't assured of home-court advantage, which is determined solely by record.

The originally scheduled game was called off when New York was hit with snow, though not nearly enough to live up to the blizzard predictions.

Both coaches downplayed the inconvenience of the one-game, cross-country return trip, and in fact both said they had already done it. Stotts was an assistant to George Karl in Seattle when the SuperSonics had to play an April makeup in New York in 1996, while Hollins was a player in Portland in 1978 when the Blazers couldn't get to a game in New York because of weather and had to return later.

The Nets outscored the Blazers 32-12 in the second quarter, limiting Portland to 4-of-18 shooting, and expanded their lead to 22 points in the third quarter. They won their season-high fifth straight at home and have won 11 of 14 overall.

Thunder fading in race for final playoff spot in West

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Thunder usually spend the first half of April fighting to improve their playoff seeding.

This year, they're fighting just to get into the postseason.

Oklahoma City has lost three straight heading into Tuesday's game against the San Antonio Spurs, and its playoff hopes are in jeopardy. The Thunder are just a half game ahead of the New Orleans Pelicans for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference standings.

"Talking doesn't do much," point guard Russell Westbrook said after Sunday's loss to Houston. "You've got to play. You've got to come out and play."

The Thunder normally are a lock for the postseason, having reached the playoffs five straight years. They've played in the Western Conference Finals three of the past four years and the NBA Finals once, but injuries to reigning MVP Kevin Durant (right foot surgery), forwards Serge Ibaka (right knee surgery) and Nick Collison (left ankle sprain) and shooting guard Andre Roberson (left ankle sprain) have taken their toll.

Westbrook has carried much

of the load with so many players out injured. Since Durant's last game on Feb. 19, Westbrook is averaging 30.6 points, 10.6 assists and 9.1 rebounds per game with nine triple-doubles. Despite heavy minutes—40 per game in the past five—coach Scott Brooks isn't worried about Westbrook slowing down.

"He understands that the rest is important to come back with a full tank every night, and he has done that," Brooks said. "He's a special player, and he's at a high level in that regard. He has the energy that can fill an entire arena, and he's done a good job of recharging his batteries night in and night out."

The Thunder are allowing 112 points per game and 52 percent shooting during their losing skid, losing games to Dallas, Memphis and Houston by a combined 15 points.

"I think our effort's been there these last few games, but we just came up short in some departments down the stretch," Thunder guard Anthony Morrow said. "We've just got to continue to work on those things."

The injury news isn't getting much better. Durant has been declared out for the season, and he was riding around

Chesapeake Energy Arena in a motorized cart on Sunday. Roberson participated in some of Monday's practice and is considered day-to-day. Collison and Ibaka did not participate in practice.

The injuries have affected depth, particularly inside. Houston went after Oklahoma City's big men and got them in foul trouble, a key factor in the Rockets' win.

Some good news has emerged for the Thunder in the second half of the season. Enes Kanter also has provided a spark, averaging 18.4 points and 11.6 rebounds while shooting 56 percent from the field in 21 games since being acquired at the trade deadline.

Morrow has seen an increase in playing time and has taken advantage by making 18 of 31 3-pointers in his past five games. He is averaging 18 points and shooting 55 percent from the field during that stretch.

Still, the defense has been ragged, and Westbrook's shooting percentage has dropped as he has logged more minutes. Morrow expects a difficult path to the playoffs ahead, starting with the defending NBA champion Spurs.

Kawhi Leonard's case for Defensive Player of the Year

Kawhi Leonard just might swoop in and steal the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year award.

The soft-spoken San Antonio forward has played in only 59 games this season because of injuries, but he is healthy at the right time to help the Spurs surge up the Western Conference ladder as the playoffs approach.

The Spurs have won seven straight and Leonard is leading the way with some truly dominant defense. He had seven steals in a victory over the Golden State Warriors on Sunday night and has at least four swipes in seven of the last 15 games.

"He is really playing confidently, but he hasn't forgotten to predicate his game on the defense and on the boards," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "It kind of fuels him offensively. Our guys know how to give him his room. We are learning it better and better."

Leonard missed 17 of 19 games from Dec. 10 to Jan. 14, and the defending champions struggled to find the groove that made them so devastating in last year's run to their fifth title. Leonard has given them their mojo back, giving them another staunch perimeter defender alongside Danny Green and pushed himself into the postsea-

son award conversation.

Golden State's Draymond Green had been considered the front-runner for the award for much of the season, with the Clippers' DeAndre Jordan and the Grizzlies' Marc Gasol among the others getting consideration.

But the man known as "The Claw" for his huge hands—the one who won MVP honors in the NBA Finals last year—is staking a pretty strong claim as the season draws to a close.

"I was just trying to come out here and make it carry over to the playoffs," said Leonard, who will be a restricted free agent this summer. "I'm trying to compete every game and help my team win."

■■■

Here are some things to watch this week:

GEORGE'S RETURN: Paul George scored 13 points in 14 minutes during an emotional return to the court on Sunday for the Indiana Pacers. It was George's first game since a gruesome broken leg in a Team USA scrimmage last summer. He'll play again on Wednesday in Madison Square Garden.

HOWARD RISES: Dwight Howard has been limited to 37 games this season because of injuries. On Sunday against Oklahoma City, he looked like his old self with 22 points and

eight rebounds, just in time for the playoffs.

SCORING RACE: Russell Westbrook and James Harden are neck-and-neck for the scoring title down the stretch. Both entered their game on Sunday averaging 27.7 points per game. Harden scored 41 and Westbrook scored 40 in that game. Buckle up.

TEXAS TWO-STEP: The Spurs (51-26) are right on the heels of the second-seeded Rockets (53-24) in the West. The teams play twice this week. First in San Antonio on Wednesday and then in Houston on Friday.

TANKING TIMBERWOLVES: Minnesota (16-60) has lost six straight and shut down Ricky Rubio for the rest of the season with an injured ankle. They have a tough road trip this week with four games in five nights out west and could catch the Knicks (15-62) for the NBA's worst record.

■■■

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK: Harden: 51 points, eight rebounds, six assists vs. Kings on Wednesday. While Howard has slowly worked his way back into the lineup, Harden has made his case for league MVP with a stellar finish. He hit 8 of 9 3-pointers against Sacramento and needed just 25 field goal attempts to hit 50 for the second time in eight games.

Daniel sweeps regular season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Daniel finished the regular season of the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League with a flawless record.

Daniel earned a 7-0 record in the round-robin contest, following an 80-70 victory over Gideon last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Gideon fell to a 3-3 record and will play their last game in the regular season against Ezekiel next week.

Angelo Hernaez continued to showcase an MVP award-wor-

thy game for the unbeaten Daniel, as he sizzled for 35 points against Gideon. Three other Daniel players scored in double figures to keep the team's perfect record. Kagman High School quarterback Andrew Palino chipped in 13, while veteran Dindo Pablo and Reli Del Rio contributed 11 each.

Lawrence Borja led Gideon's losing cause, as he knocked in 20 markers. Borja's points were equally distributed with his 10 markers in the first half.

Borja controlled the paint in the first 20 minutes of the contest and with Ambet Omampo and Bradley Demapan combining for 13 of their own, Gideon

took a shaky 36-34 lead into the second half. Joel Buniag also contributed in the first half for Gideon, adding 5.

Daniel, on the other hand, relied heavily on Hernaez, who dropped 16 in the first half to keep his team afloat. Four other Daniel players bagged two field goals apiece to trail by only a deuce after the first half.

In the second half, it was all Daniel, as Gideon failed to stop Hernaez from burning the hoop, while Pablo, Palino, and Del Rio also got their offensive game going in the final frame. Palino drilled

9 points in the final half after making only two field goals in the first half, while Pablo and Del Rio registered 7 apiece.

Only Demapan and Borja hit more than three field goals in the second half, as Gideon failed in its bid to stop the unscathed Daniel.

With Daniel keeping its unbeaten slate, the defending champion will be seeded first in the playoffs and will duel the last-ranked squad in the team standings for one of the four semis berths. The battle for the Final Four seats will be held on April 17 and 20,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Daniel players pose for a group photo before their game in the 4th Genesis Cup late last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

while the semis matches is scheduled for April 24. The winner-take-all finals is slated on April 26.

Meanwhile, Isaiah and Samuel collided in the second game last Monday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Thursday issue.

Daniel 80 – Hernaez 35, Palino 13, Pablo 11, Del Rio 11, Nunez 4, Del Carmen 2.

Gideon 70 – Borja 20, Demapan 14, Buniag 12, Omampo 9, Sablan 7, David 4, Reyes 2, Santos 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-36, 80-70.

Allen's 2nd-half burst keys Blue Devils' NCAA title win

By AARON BEARD
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—With two of Duke's star freshmen in foul trouble in the biggest game of the season, the Blue Devils found a championship-saving jolt from an unlikely source.

Hello, Grayson Allen. Welcome to the game's biggest stage.

The fourth and often overlooked member of Duke's heralded freshman class scored 16 points in Monday night's NCAA championship game. That included a run of eight straight points—along with a huge burst of energy—that helped Duke get back in a game that was slipping away and beat Wisconsin 68-63 for the program's fifth title.

Allen's timely burst was desperately needed for Duke with star big man Jahliel Okafor battling foul trouble. And with Okafor sitting for long stretches of the second half,

Allen saw major minutes in a small lineup for the Blue Devils (35-4).

Allen, a 6-foot-4 guard from Jacksonville, Florida, scored 10 points after half-time and finished 5-for-8 from the field along with a perfect 5-for-5 from the foul line in 21 minutes. Along the way, he

provided some of the same hustling plays he did in Saturday night's win against Michigan State in the Final Four, sprinting and diving on the floor for loose balls or penetrating hard into the paint.

It was a heck of a coming-out party, one that put Allen on the five-man all-tournament team after this one was over.

"Grayson just put us on his back," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who became only the second coach to claim five NCAA championships with the win.

There's no way Wisconsin could've seen Allen's outburst coming, either.



FRANK

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2:39 left.

Kaminsky got beat by Duke freshman phenom center Jahliel Okafor with 3:14 left for a layup in the middle of the Blue Devils' second-half surge, right after the big guy missed his own layup off a spin move.

Just like in December, when Duke beat Wisconsin 80-70 in Madison, Okafor and Duke's youth beat Kaminsky and the experienced Badgers.

Fouls also hurt in the second half. Wisconsin had just two fouls in the first half, but 13 in the second - unusual for a team

that prides itself on not getting whistles.

"There was more body contact in this game than any game we played all year, and I just feel sorry for my guys that all of the sudden a game was like that, and I think they're struggling with that a little bit," coach Bo Ryan said.

"We missed some opportunities. They hit some tough shots. But you know it's just a shame that it had to be played that way."

This isn't the way Kaminsky wanted his career to end, of course.

But the disappointment won't take away from what

has been one of the most unique rags-to-riches stories in recent college basketball memory.

Kaminsky played just 10 minutes a game off the bench two years ago. He was an unknown quantity to the rest of the Big Ten when he entered the starting lineup in November 2013 as junior.

What a ride it's been since then for him.

An admitted goofball, Kaminsky was all business on the court. Duke associate head coach Jeff Capel called him one of the most unusual difference-makers in the game today.

A RING

From Page 28

players he led to a 35-4 record.

He didn't have to run around the court looking for someone to hug like Jim Valvano did in 1983 when North Carolina State shocked the college basketball world. Players ran toward Krzyzewski and one by one they got hugs, hard hugs, the kind of hugs men give each other after a hard-fought win that meant history.

Krzyzewski was already alone at the top of the Division I victory list. In his 40 seasons—35 at Duke—he has won 1,018 games. His total is the

only one with a comma.

His national championships came in 1991, 1992, 2001, 2010 and now 2015. He was 44 years old when he won his first. He is 68 now and only Connecticut's Jim Calhoun was older when he won a title—his third in 2011—and that was by nine months.

"Two guys have distanced themselves from the rest of us—John and Mike," Calhoun said minutes after Monday's title game. "If you're starting a Mount Rushmore of college coaches it's them. He is one hell of a coach."

The minutes leading to Krzyzewski's latest champi-

onship game were just like all his other games, even if not this important. The graduate of West Point who retired from the Army at the rank of captain stood at attention during the national anthem. Nobody stands as erect as he does during the anthem. It looks as if he is waiting to be inspected by a superior officer.

Then the game starts and few are as intense as he is. He implores his team to play defense. He works the officials—boy, does he work the officials—and he stands in front of his bench. (In this game he sat in front of the bench on a stool near the edge of the raised court).

DUKE

From Page 28

pile—a scene very reminiscent of the last time the Final Four was Indianapolis, back in 2010 when Duke edged out Butler in another scintillating final. The Blue Devils also took one here in 1991—the Grant Hill, Christian Laettner squad.

"They showed such grit tonight," said coach Mike Krzyzewski, whose five titles put him alone in second place on the all-time list behind John Wooden. "Our bench was spectacular, and like we said about two months ago, eight is enough. Eight is enough."

Among the eight players who share all the playing time are

Okafor, his buddy, Jones, and another freshman, Justise Winslow. They all might playing at an NBA arena near you next season.

But Grayson Allen? The most unheralded of Krzyzewski's first-year players, who averages four points a game, stepped up with Okafor on the bench for much of the second half in foul trouble. Allen, the slam-dunk champion at the high school McDonald's All-American contest last year, scored 16 points and kept Duke in it when Okafor was on the bench with his third and fourth fouls and Wisconsin (36-4) looked like it was about to pull away.

"It was fun to watch my teammates do what they do," Okafor

said. "They have my back the entire season, and it was no different tonight."

This was a savvy, calm, collected comeback against the team that wrote the book on that all season. Wisconsin kept its cool two nights earlier in an upset over undefeated Kentucky and looked like it would close the deal when it turned a 31-all halftime tie into a 48-39 lead after Kaminsky made a layup with 13:23 left.

Then, suddenly, Duke looked like veterans and Wisconsin looked like kids.

Kaminsky had 21 points and 12 rebounds to Okafor's 10 and three, but "Frank the Tank" struggled to get a good look down the stretch. On Okafor's first late

bucket, Kaminsky tried to wrap an arm around him, but Okafor just powered his way through it for the bucket and the foul. He missed the free throw, but a different point had been made.

In the seconds leading up to that basket, Winslow appeared to step on the baseline. But the whistle never blew and he delivered it to Okafor for the score.

That, and the foul count, had the Wisconsin Twitterverse fuming about some calls. The Badgers got whistled for only two fouls in the first half, but the count in the second half was Badgers 13, Blue Devils 6. Duke shot 20 free throws to Wisconsin's 10.

"It was a situation where you just have to be able to handle all

the hands and the checking," Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan said. "There was more body contact in this game than any game we played all year, and I just feel sorry for my guys that all of the sudden a game was like that, and I think they're struggling with that a little bit."

Even though Kaminsky schooled Okafor to draw both his third and fourth fouls early in the second half, Wisconsin couldn't pull away from an aggressive Duke defense that allowed only 55 points a game in the five contests leading to the final.

Wisconsin shot 41 percent—7 points under its season average.

"Shots just weren't falling, and they were getting to the

line, and when the tide changes like that, it's kind of hard to get back in the flow," said Badgers forward Sam Dekker said. "We tried to play through it but they made more plays than we did."

Nigel Hayes had 13 points and Dekker, the key guy down the stretch against Kentucky, had a very quiet 12 for the Badgers, who were trying to bring their first title back to Madison since 1941. Dekker used his shirt to dab away tears during postgame interviews—a much different scene than the loose, fun-loving media sessions the Badgers put on all tournament.

For Duke, it was all smiles. The Blue Devils are taking another trophy home to the Cameron Crazies.

Lieto, Falcons end Yankees' postseason run

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Peter Lieto tossed four innings in relief to help the Falcons to a 16-6 crushing of the Saipan Stevedore Yankees in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League playoff round last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Falcons completed a two-game sweep of the Yankees in their own best-of-three semifinals to earn the chance of facing the defending champions GSM Brewers in the race-to-three title series, which starts Friday at 7pm.

The Brewers and the Falcons split their regular season games with the former scoring a 10-4 win in their first meeting on Feb. 18 and the latter returning the favor with an 8-5 decision on March 4 behind Ned Norita's outside-the-park homer.

The Falcons are hoping to make a winning return after clinching the SBL crown in 2007. They did not join the past

seven seasons of the league.

The Falcons' win over the Yankees also avenged a 6-4 loss in the final elimination round game last March 25, a setback that denied them a chance of forcing a playoff with the Brewers for the pennant.

The game was tied at six after 6 1/2 innings when the Falcons, aided by Yankees errors, scored nine runs in the bottom of the seventh to pull away.

After leadoff batter Goru Iskawa had an infield fly, Frankie Lieto got on base on an error by shortstop Jerome Delos Santos while Henry Iguel walked.

Jeremy Atalig loaded the bases for the Falcons after Yankees third baseman Pete Tomokane dropped the ball on what could have been an easy ground out. Ned Norita came in to pinch run for Atalig.

Falcons designated hitter Alex Benavente found a gap at right field for a single that brought in Lieto and Iguel, while Norita touched home plate on a Peter Lieto RBI single to make it 9-6. The Falcons scored seven more runs, one in the eighth, after that.



JON PEREZ
Yankees first baseman John Tudela, right, tries to keep a close distance to Falcons pinch runner Ned Norita in Game 2 of their best-of-three semifinals series on Monday night in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League.

Lieto relieved starter Aaron Benavente in the bottom of the fourth giving up two runs, one earned, on five hits with seven

strikeouts and no walks. Benavente was tagged with four runs, two earned, on two hits while walking four batters.

A.J. Lizama closed out for the Falcons in the top of the eighth. He forced leadoff batter Jerome Delos Santos to fly out to center fielder Juan Iguel for the first out but gave up a single to Tom Joab to keep the Yankees' comeback hopes alive.

Joab, however, was left stranded on base as Lizama struck out John Tudela and forced Ben Jones to ground out on a game-

ending 6-3 putout play.

Juan Iguel drove in three runs, including an RBI triple in the third, going 2-for-4 with two runs scored, while Lizama went 2-for-5 with a two-RBI double in the seventh and one run. Lamar Iguel, 3-for-4, scored twice in the game.

Alex Benavente also drove in two runs on a 1-for-3 batting with two runs.

Island Manpower, Eye Sees advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Island Manpower and Eye Sees marched into the Final Four of the 2015 DLX Invitational Basketball League after eliminating their respective playoff foes last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Island Manpower routed an erratic Mawati in the nightcap, 80-49, to clinch the fourth and last semis berth, while earlier in the first game, Eye Sees outclassed Maplas, 65-59. Eye Sees and Island Manpower join SSFM/New Garapan Market and Jake's Catering in the round-robin semis that will start tonight. The Top 2 teams after the round-robin play will duke

it out for the championship.

Jun Tabora was on target in Island Manpower's blowout of Mawati and drew a lot of support from his teammates. Pete Lizama chipped in 17, while Syl Teregeyo and Jerome Norita also finished in twin digits with their 16 and 10 markers, respectively. Ferdie Tobias and Derrick Rangamar completed Island Manpower's balance offense, combining for 15.

While Island Manpower had a smooth-flowing offense, it was a different story for Mawati, as it failed to hit successive

baskets with its several errors disrupting the team's rhythm.

Turnovers were not recorded during the match, but Mawati had about 10 in the third quarter alone. Before committing those careless passes, Mawati threatened Island Manpower, bringing the once 20-point deficit at halftime to 12 early in the third period, 44-32. However, with Mawati turning the ball over on many occasions, Island Manpower reestablished a comfortable lead at the end of the third, 60-36. Mawati was held to 2 points in the next six minutes and change of the third after making a short rally to face an uphill climb in the fourth.

The big recovery in the fourth canto did not happen, as Mawati continued to squander possessions, while Island Manpower moved the ball well and kept pouring in baskets. Pete Lizama punctuated Island Manpower's demolition of Mawati with a triple at the fourth-quarter buzzer.

Island Manpower cruised victory despite leading by only 3 after the first period, 17-14. It stretched the advantage to twin digits in the second canto after holding Mawati to 10 points. Derrick Rangamar also nailed a buzzer-beating trey in the second quarter to lift Island Manpower to a 44-24 lead.

In the first game, Eye Sees played better in the second half and canned important free throws in the homestretch to oust Maplas.

Eye Sees scored its last 5 markers from the foul line

with Jomar Manzano and Ken Quemado drilling two charities apiece and Erick Dela Rosa making a split.

Dela Rosa and Manzano also knocked in field goals in the final canto to foil Maplas' comeback bid. Dela Rosa tallied all his 7 points in the fourth, registering 6 of Eye Sees' first 9 points in that frame, while Manzano added 6.

Eye Sees, which trailed in the first half, 25-27, grabbed the upper hand in the third, 45-37, but could not pull away as Edmark Mendoza kept Maplas' hopes alive. Mendoza gave Maplas its first 13 points in the final canto, but could not bail his team out of trouble, as he had limited help with only two of his teammates hitting the board in the payoff frame. Mico Usi had a triple in the final quarter, while Ryan Odicia canned a pair of free throws.

First Game

Eye Sees 65 – Manzano 18, Fernando 17, Dela Rosa 7, Espinosa 5, Lim 4, Quemado 4, Directo 4, Muleta 3, David 1.

Maplas 59 – Mendoza 27, Usi 9, Pangilinan 9, Anicete 7, Claveria 3, Yalung 2, Odicia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 25-27, 45-37, 65-69.

Second Game

Island Manpower 80 – Tabora 22, Lizama 17, Teregeyo 16, Norita 10, Tobias 8, Rangamar 7.

Mawati 49 – Gontar 19, Larot 11, Rejano 10, Demapan 6, Reyes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-14, 44-24, 60-36, 80-49.

Title contenders trip foes in Thursday billiards

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Route 33 Alamo Car Rental, Wild Bill's, and Joker Homeboyz tripped their respective foes in the continuation of action in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open-8 Ball Thursday League last week.

Route 33, Wild Bill's, and Homeboyz coasted to similar 11-4 wins over the Jokers Wonderpool Aces, the Barcode Breakers, and Jonny's Team SCS.

Richard Santos, Manny Mariano, Roman Rodriguez, Boyet Sequico, and Ruben Santos showed the Wonderpool Aces why they are the league's top team after compiling the most number of wins in the 15 matches they played.

All 15 games are played with each win and loss added to the team's record.

Route 33 continues to lead the team standings with an 81-54 slate followed by the 77-58 mark of Wild Bill's and the Abyss Titans' 76-59 card. The Homeboyz are fourth (75-60) and the Abyss Rack 'N' Roll fifth (70-65).

The Magic 8 Ball (69-66),

Deadshot (64-71), Wonderpool Aces (61-74), Team SCS (59-76), and Barcode Breakers (43-92) complete the standings.

Wild Bill's and the Homeboyz swept all of the five Singles 8-Ball matches they played against the Barcode Breakers and Team SCS, respectively, to start the one-sided contest.

The Titans and the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot, on the other hand, escaped with similar 8-7 decisions over the Smoke Pub 8 Ball and the Rack 'N' Roll.

The Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers dropped an 8-7 setback against the Jokers IT&E Voyagers, but remain on top of the Tuesday League standings with an 82-53 card followed by their conquerors at 76-59.

The Jokers Str8 Shooters and the Abyss Crazy 8 downed the Abyss Homeboyz II and the Smoke Pub Destroyers with the same score, 9-6.

The St8 Shooters are third with a 65-70 record and was closely followed by the Crazy 8 (63-72) and the Destroyers (62-73). The Homeboyz II are at the Cellular with a 57-68 slate.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Island Manpower's Syl Teregeyo is blocked by Mawati's Webb Gontar, left, but is fouled by Arjay Nonato during the third quarter of their playoff game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



Kemp has 3 RBIs in Padres opening day 6-3 loss to Dodgers

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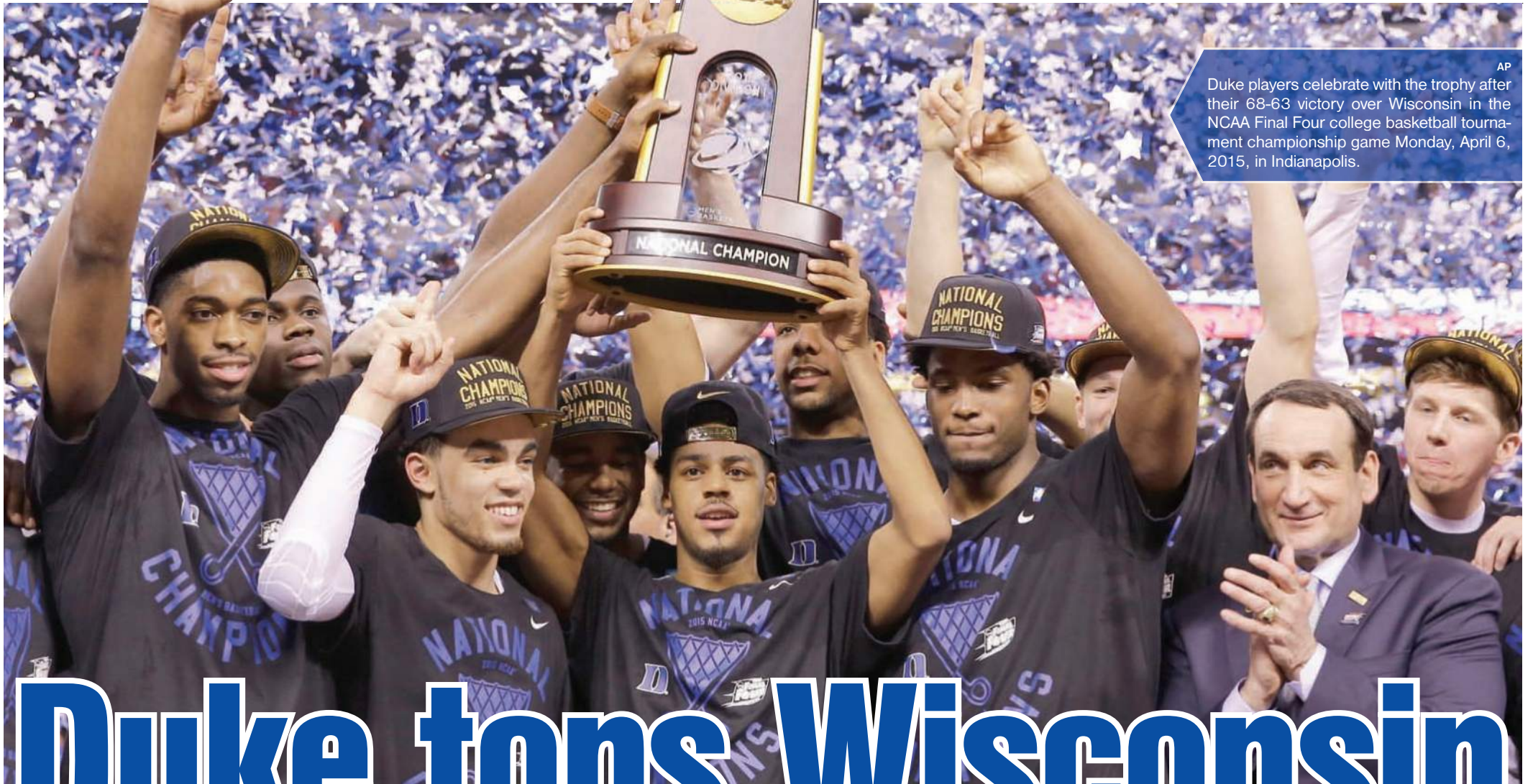
Lieto, Falcons end Yankees' postseason run

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



AP
Duke players celebrate with the trophy after their 68-63 victory over Wisconsin in the NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament championship game Monday, April 6, 2015, in Indianapolis.

Duke tops Wisconsin 68-63 for national title

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Call them freshmen. Please, do not call them kids.

Led by Tyus Jones and h, Duke's talented group of youngsters played like salty old pros down the stretch, outscoring Wisconsin by 14 points over the final 13 minutes Monday night to grit out a 68-63 victory for the program's fifth national title.

Okafor, the likely first pick in the NBA draft if he decides to leave, got outplayed by Badgers center Frank Kaminsky most of the night but came through like a veteran when the pressure was highest.

The 6-foot-11 freshman made two straight buckets over Kaminsky, sandwiched between a pair of 3-pointers from Jones, to help the Blue Devils (35-4) turn a one-time nine-point deficit into an eight-point lead with 1:22 left.



A furious Wisconsin rally ensued, but it came up short. Then, it was Okafor on the bottom of a rowdy, raucous dog

See DUKE on Page 26

A ring for each finger: Coach K wins 5th title

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—It's John Wooden and Mike Krzyzewski.

Duke's Coach K won his fifth national championship Monday night with a 68-63 victory over Wisconsin. Only Wooden, who won an incredible 10 at UCLA, is above Krzyzewski on the list of

champions.

When the buzzer sounded and No. 5 was official, Krzyzewski turned toward his bench with his hands high above his head. Then came the rush of assistant coaches—all former Duke players—for a group hug that included jumping up and down just like the

See A RING on Page 26



AP
Wisconsin's Frank Kaminsky (44) and Nigel Hayes (10) walk off the court as Duke players celebrate their 68-63 victory over Wisconsin in the NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament championship game Monday, April 6, 2015, in Indianapolis.

Frank the Tank's run comes to end with Wisconsin loss

By GENARO C. ARMAS
AP SPORTS WRITER

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Hands on his head, Frank Kaminsky walked slowly back to the bench as the young Duke Blue Devils started celebrating at midcourt.

This fun run is over for Frank the Tank and the tight-knit Wisconsin Badgers.

Kaminsky's remarkable career with the Badgers ended with a 68-63 loss Monday night in the NCAA Tournament title game against Duke.

"It's hard to say anything. These guys are my family," Kaminsky said. "I mean that literally. It's going to be hard to say goodbye."

The double-double machine finished with 21 points and 12 boards.

But a couple late-game mistakes by the usually savvy senior hurt the Badgers.

The AP Player of the Year threw up an errant shot as the shot clock wound down with

See FRANK on Page 26



AP
Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski cuts down the net after his team's 68-63 victory over Wisconsin in the NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament championship game Monday, April 6, 2015, in Indianapolis.